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International Review 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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Presidencia del Comité Internacional de la Cruz Roja — Experiencia en El Caribe (*J. Gómez Ruiz*) — ¿Cómo se prosigue la difusión de los Convenios de Ginebra? (*J. de Preux*).

GERMAN

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The Work of the Red Cross in Poland

by I. Domńska

*For love of humanity, give us lint and
bandages for the army . . .
May this offering from your fair hands
bring solace to suffering and be an
inspiration to heroism.*

Appeal addressed in 1794 to the women of Poland by Tadeusz Kosciuszko, leader of the first Insurrection for Poland's independence and justice.

The year 1969 marks the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the Polish Red Cross.

In our country the assistance brought by the population and voluntary associations to wounded soldiers originated from a very ancient and fine tradition. It goes back to the time of Kosciuszko's Insurrection and was continued during the national insurrections of 1830 and 1863. Throughout the 120 years and more of Poland's servitude and dismemberment it was extended to those who had been imprisoned for fighting for liberty and justice. One of the organizations of voluntary assistance and first-aid was called the Red Cross Society (1862-1886).

During the First World War several organizations brought relief to wounded or sick Polish soldiers in the various units in which they were serving.

After Poland had regained its independence after the end of the 1914-1918 war, some of these relief organizations, such as the Central Committee of Assistance to Soldiers, the Relief Service, the Polish Male Nurse and the Polish Committee of Medical Aid,

THE WORK OF THE RED CROSS IN POLAND

formed in 1919 a temporary Committee of the Polish Red Cross Society.

A general assembly, meeting on April 27, 1919, adopted the institution's statutes and elected a directing committee consisting of thirty. This then is the official date of our Society's founding.

On July 15, 1919, the Polish Red Cross was recognized by the International Committee of the Red Cross as the sole Red Cross Society whose activities extended over the whole territory and which became the organization called upon by the Government of the Polish Republic to co-operate with the Army Medical Service to bring assistance to sick and wounded soldiers, in accordance with the Geneva Convention previously signed by the Polish Government.

At the end of that same month, the Polish Red Cross was admitted to the League of Red Cross Societies which had just been created.

The National Society was to develop rapidly throughout the country. It had the good fortune to receive property, installations and equipment belonging to the founding organizations which also handed over to it military hospitals, convalescent homes, medical trains, river transport, disinfection trains, medical and food aid posts, etc. . . .

Created in 1919, the Information Bureau received lists of casualties and made searches for military and civilians missing during the war. Thanks to the co-operation established, amongst other things, from that time between the Polish and the Soviet Red Cross Societies, many of these were able to return home.

When, as a result of a decision of the Allied High Commission, half Silesia was allocated to Germany and the Polish population of Silesia took up arms on three occasions by insurrections in 1919, 1920 and 1921 to reclaim the return of the whole of Silesia to Poland, the Polish Red Cross brought aid in medical care and food to the insurgents and took part in the exchange of prisoners.

After carrying out tasks brought about by the aftermath of war, the Polish Red Cross took on activities belonging to a time of peace which were essentially those of giving assistance in cases of natural disasters and epidemics and also of co-operating with governmental and communal authorities for the purpose of improving the health of the population. To that end it took over responsi-

bility for about 200 medical and welfare institutions (hospitals, sanatoria, anti-tubercular dispensaries, mobile columns in the fight against trachoma, etc...) and the training of nurses in two schools in Warsaw and Poznan. At the same time, it concerned itself with medical education in schools in particular where from 1921 onwards groups were set up and in the country with training the first rural hygienists as well as with teaching ambulance work to the population. It also trained "first-aid sisters" of the Red Cross, called upon to serve as voluntary auxiliary nurses in case of war or natural disaster.

During 1937 and 1938, the National Society started to recruit blood donors in Poland. In 1937 it organized the first Blood Transfusion Institute at the Polish Red Cross hospital in Warsaw, with centres at Lodz and Krakow.

By 1938 the number of Red Cross members amounted to 700,000 of whom 300,000 were adults and 400,000 juniors.

During the September campaign of 1939.—From the first day of the Nazi invasion, September 1, 1939 which marked the beginning of the Second World War, the Polish Red Cross undertook the bringing of relief to sick and wounded soldiers as well as to the civilian population which suffered the most from bombing on a massive scale. At this tragic moment the Society was successful in organizing nearly 180 hospitals for military wounded and providing treatment in existing hospitals. In Warsaw alone, 3000 ambulance workers and first-aid sisters of the Red Cross brought their assistance to wounded military and civilians.

For the civilian population fleeing the invader the Polish Red Cross set up mobile kitchens, canteens, reception centres, etc. on the roads. During this month of September 1939 its Information and Tracing Bureau registered over 80,000 names of war victims.

Then followed the Nazi occupation with its attendant brutal violation of human and the population's rights, persecution and wide-scale extermination, forced uprooting, executions, famine, misery, finally the concentration camps and, for the Jewish population, specially established and isolated ghettos, all outside aid being forbidden on pain of death, in order to facilitate the process of exterminating the population.

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The National Society had to intervene in extremely difficult conditions. However, thanks to the outstanding devotion of its volunteers, it pursued its humanitarian activities, in particular in the following spheres:

- assistance to the unemployed and homeless, persons deported, displaced and those enclosed in the ghettos,
- assistance to prisoners of war and detainees in concentration camps and prisons,
- medical and hygiene aid to the civilian population,
- transmission of news to families of the fate of prisoners of war and detainees, the despatching of parcels and messages.

It also succeeded in organizing more than 500 courses for ambulance workers throughout the country. It was thus possible to train a large number of ambulance workers, both men and women who were to devote themselves to partisan detachments and to medical aid during the Warsaw Insurrection.

The Warsaw Insurrection. — Red Cross ambulance workers were the first to bring aid to fighters in the Resistance, to the wounded and sick civilians during the Warsaw Insurrection which broke out on August 1, 1944.

For the inhabitants of the capital subjected to bombing and artillery fire for 65 days and nights, the Polish Red Cross put into service some twenty temporary hospitals and first-aid detachments and hundreds of medical posts. The heroic conduct of the medical service and the devotion to duty which it displayed during the two months of the Insurrection earned it the very highest praise. Many of its members were killed in the performance of their duty.

After the capitulation, the Red Cross was entrusted with the task of assisting the wounded and evacuating the hospitals which, like the entire population, had to leave Warsaw on October 6, 1944. After that date the capital was subjected to total destruction. The Society's Central Committee, too, had to take refuge in the provinces.

After the Liberation. — In the summer of 1944 Polish territory was partly liberated by the Soviet army and Polish forces fighting on

its side. The Manifesto of July 22, 1944 was the first act of the new People's Government of Poland which brought release to our people.

On January 17, 1945 Warsaw was itself liberated and the Red Cross Central Committee then immediately returned to the capital, as did its inhabitants who had decided to bring life back to their city which had been razed to the ground by the enemy.

In a country in ruins the Red Cross had considerable tasks to face.

Once again, as after the First World War, but on a far vaster scale, it had to deal with problems raised by the immense human distress resulting from the occupation and war. From East and from the West millions of Poles returned to their own country, prisoners of war, internees of concentration camps and labour camps, those repatriated from the USSR and the western countries.

In co-operation with the authorities, the Polish Red Cross organized reception centres, shelters, mobile cookers, canteens, first-aid medical and food posts. Thanks to the population's enthusiasm and to help given by the neighbouring Red Cross Societies, the League and the International Committee, it was able, apart from distributions of food, clothing, boots and shoes, underclothes, to set up 30 hospitals, 5 sanatoria, more than 300 dispensaries, 24 assistances centres for mothers and children, emergency relief centres which by 1950 already amounted to 177, as well as 15 blood transfusion centres and 6 nursing schools. At that time, the Polish Red Cross possessed 3 medical trains, some fifteen medical wagons and mobile dispensaries.

Once re-installed in Warsaw, the Information and Tracing Bureau resumed its activity, so that it was soon in position to face the flood of requests for inquiries. At present it has a card-index containing over 10 million cards of missing, lists of killed; a horrifying testimony to the martyrdom endured by the Polish people during the Second World War.

Even in 1968, it was still possible to obtain details of the fate of some six thousand persons.

At the end of 1947, the Polish Red Cross began to expand on a large scale the teaching of ambulance work and medical education with a view to raising the standard of hygiene and the medical

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condition of the country. This was a question of particularly valuable work on account of the lack of doctors and nurses decimated by the occupation forces.

With this end in view Red Cross committees were set up in all sorts of undertakings. The National Society was able to count on the help of the authorities and the trade unions, which, conscious of the range of Red Cross work for the workers' health, gave it all the necessary facilities.

Similar activities were embarked upon, in relation to the needs of different sectors, by local committees in towns and sectors, in the country, as well as in schools. This orientation of work, based on voluntary service, led to a dynamic expansion by the Society.

In the framework of its action of medical education, the Polish Red Cross published large numbers of pamphlets and folders. It changed the organ of its Central Committee *Jestem* into a monthly journal *Zdrowie* (Health) essentially devoted to problems of health, aimed at wide circulation.

The administration of therapeutic institutions and establishments on such a gigantic scale demanded a considerable administrative apparatus and financial resources. By allowing this situation to continue, justified just after the end of the war when the lack of Public Health Services had to be remedied, the development of other work undertaken by the Polish Red Cross might in the long run have been slowed down. It then decided in 1948 to place establishments it administered gradually at the disposal of the Public Health Service, by then already well organized.

In view of the considerable need of nurses by the Health Service, which was itself in full expansion, the National Society undertook, on the other hand, to train auxiliary nursing personnel. In three years, from 1949 to 1952, it thus trained about 20,000 auxiliary nurses.

The first national Congress convened since the war met at the beginning of 1951. It elected the Society's directing bodies, passed statutes, confirmed the general lines of work accomplished since then and drew up a programme of future tasks.

The following Congress in 1955 brought out the necessity of extending Red Cross activities to country areas. For this purpose it was decided to carry out large-scale training of voluntary rural

POLISH RED CROSS



Voluntary rural health workers look after children at harvest time.



The filing system of the Red Cross Information and Tracing Bureau, Warsaw.

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hygienists by organizing courses of one month's duration as boarders. Similarly, medical education in the country was intensified.

In 1953, six months' courses for the training of auxiliary nurses were extended to a period of one year and in 1957 the length of training in all auxiliary nursing schools of the Polish Red Cross was fixed for two years. Nurses known as "assistants" were thus given preparatory instruction.

This study programme continued until 1966, when it was interrupted because of the general re-organization of the system of training nurses in Poland. During that period the Red Cross trained 14,620 assistant nurses. In all, in 21 years it trained some 40,000 qualified and assistant nurses for the Health Service. These whilst being professional take an active part, as volunteers, in realizing the Society's humanitarian activity.

In 1957, the Polish Red Cross again concerned itself with the training of voluntary auxiliary nurses, called Red Cross first-aid sisters, with a view to preparing a sufficient number of nurses and special voluntary cadres and to form, to a certain extent, a reserve for home-care of the sick.

The same year a large-scale campaign was undertaken for voluntary blood donations, an activity considered to be one of the fundamental Red Cross tasks. The number of voluntary blood donors increased each year, as did that of donors giving their blood on a regular basis.

The efforts made to implement the decisions of the national Congresses of 1960 and 1965 to extend activities to the country achieved success. The number of Red Cross members in the country is rapidly increasing. There are more and more voluntary rural hygienists, co-operating with the rural health services to improve preventive measures amongst the peasants. In this way, the Red Cross committees and their consultative committees increasingly benefit at all levels from the voluntary work of Red Cross members, which enables a reduction to be made in the number of paid officials.

As the number of voluntary auxiliary nurses increases, so the Society organizes home-care centres for the aged and lonely. This activity is most useful and much appreciated by the population but, although it is constantly expanding, still remains insufficient for needs in this direction.

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Special attention is given to the improvement of hygienic education and to publicity for the voluntary donating of blood. Awards are given to voluntary donors and to those of particular merit.

Since 1960, Red Cross activities have been making continual progress with the young, amongst others thanks to the support of the school authorities and enthusiastic instructors of school groups. These groups are also increasing in numbers in primary and professional schools, secondary and high schools where first-aid posts and teams can therefore be organized.

Every year the school team leaders meet at some twenty Red Cross holiday camps. Leaders who have had training in these study camps, show special interest in the humanitarian work of the Red Cross and have the necessary aptitude, can become voluntary junior instructors. In 1967, there were about three thousand of these organized in 160 groups with the committees throughout the country. The Polish Red Cross entrusts these young volunteers with the responsibility of youth activities. It was they who took the initiative in running an important hygiene and school aesthetic campaign to mark the XXth anniversary of the Polish People's Republic and the millenary of the Polish State.

To them also goes the credit of having successfully organized the first international Red Cross camp in which 13 Red Cross Societies took part.

For primary schools the Polish Red Cross publishes a periodical *Czyn Młodzieży* (Youth Action) and for secondary schools the journal *Czyn PCK* (The Action of the PRC) which since 1967 has as its title *Jestem gotow do pomocy* (Present at the Roll-call).

During these last few years, the Society has added civil defence to its tasks. Its first-aid teams act as the medical service in self-defence groups.

In 1964, as testimony to the role of the Red Cross and the importance attached in Poland to humanitarian activities, the Parliament of the People's Polish Republic adopted a law on the Polish Red Cross which laid down the obligations and rights of the National Society. It stipulated that, in carrying out its tasks, it should cooperate with the public powers and welfare organizations, respecting at the same time the fundamental Red Cross principles. Public

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bodies, welfare organizations, institutions and undertakings are bound to give it all the necessary help to enable it to accomplish its humanitarian work.

At the end of 1968, the Polish Red Cross counted about 5,150,000 members, of whom more than 2,750,000 young, 54,500 local committees and school groups, 54,000 first-aid posts and teams. The number of active volunteers exceeded 630,000 of whom 350,000 were ambulance workers, 10,000 first-aid sisters and about 10,000 voluntary rural hygienists. Over 650,000 voluntary donators have offered their blood for Public Health Service requirements.

Finally, it should be pointed out that the National Society possesses 100 home-care centres and 12 voluntary cadre training centres ¹.

* * *

The Polish Red Cross has, for many years, been taking an active part in the international Red Cross programme supporting the humanitarian initiatives of sister Societies and the League whose purposes are to protect life and health, develop welfare work and to participate in humanitarian actions on behalf of Polish victims of the war and the effects of Nazism.

It has always expressed the desire to see the international Red Cross play an increasing role in disarmament, in the prohibition of the employment of weapons of mass destruction, in favour also of peace and friendly co-operation between nations.

It has always spoken for the right of peoples to be independent and for self-determination and against acts of violence and aggression, source of conflict and suffering. It has established friendly co-operation with the other National Societies by exchanges of visits and experiences.

Having itself benefitted from the assistance of sister Societies, the League and the International Committee at the end of the war, it has, on its side, taken part whenever possible in international actions of relief to countries subjected to disasters and war.

¹ *Plate.* — Voluntary rural health workers look after children at harvest time.
The filing system of the Red Cross Information and Tracing Bureau, Warsaw.

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On the occasion of the Red Cross Centenary in 1963, the National Society was awarded the highest distinction of the Polish State the order of the "Labour Banner" first class, in recognition of the services it has rendered to medical education and its dissemination, the training of auxiliary cadres for the Health Service and care of the sick, assistance to the victims of war and disasters and to its work of international peaceful co-operation.

This high award is testimony of the esteem which the authorities have for the humanitarian work of the Polish Red Cross, for the devotion to duty of tens of thousands of members of first-aid teams and posts, for the rural hygienists and first-aid sisters who often at the risk of their own lives have brought their aid to victims of war, of natural disasters or work accidents. It is also an expression of gratitude towards members of committees and their commissions, instructors of school groups, as well as towards all who work for the Red Cross and thanks to whom the National Society is the most important welfare organization in Poland, efficient and always ready for action.

This distinction makes it a duty for the Polish Red Cross to work ever better with increased vigour in the service of the country and the cause of peace.

Dr. Irena DOMÁNSKA
President of the Polish Red Cross

After the XIVth International Conference on Social Welfare

by M. Esnard

The congress is held by some writers to be the present day antidote to modern man's isolation. Must this be seen as the reason for the constantly large participation in International Conferences on social welfare, in spite of the proliferation of seminars and meetings?

Undoubtedly social workers and representatives of allied professions are not immune from this modern trend. Thus, every two years, when the International Council on Social Welfare organises its international forum there is a veritable "Migration" of office holders in the social welfare field. They come from all quarters to pool, for a week, their experiences and ideas on the selected theme.

In 1968, more than two thousand participants from 63 countries attended the XIVth International Conference on Social Welfare, which was held in Finland, at Otaniemi, not far from Helsinki.

The general theme which was the background to the various debates was chosen for its connection with the United Nations' decision to nominate 1968 as the "International Human Rights Year". That theme was:

" Social Welfare and Human Rights "

a subject of vast scope if ever there was one and whose two main terms, each of which could have been the subject of a meeting, were worthy of consideration from the angle of their inter-relation, that

is to say, their affinities and interdependence, their implementation and even the opposition or conflict between them.

In the preliminary notes to the Conference, the International Council on Social Welfare made a point of defining the meaning to be attributed to the terms "social policy" and "human rights" in the context of the Conference.

"Social policy" was to be construed as meaning "everything which concerns fundamental decision in the social field, the operation and organization of public and private social institutions".

The term "human rights" should be interpreted "in the sense accepted in the Universal Declaration" having in mind whether, and if so, to what extent, it is used in legislation or jurisprudence, whether these rights are actually enjoyed and, if not, what legal remedies are available to citizens.

Conscious of these pitfalls to which this theme could lead, the organizers expressly emphasized that the subject should "be treated on a level made possible by the contemporary development of the social sciences, social welfare and social work, but avoiding rhetoric and too much attention to technical detail about legal and procedural matters".

Consequently the study of the theme's subdivisions, particularly in the general meetings and study groups, permitted participants to broach their subject from a practical point of view.

General meetings and study groups were only two of the working methods adopted by the International Council on Social Welfare.

Apart from the plenary sessions, open to everybody, on very wide and somewhat abstract themes: Social Change—Human Rights—Social Welfare; The Universal Declaration of Human Rights and its Bearing on Social Welfare Activities; Social Work and its Human Rights Aspects, the Conference included nine general meetings and thirteen study groups, open to all participants and held concurrently, as well as six commissions of a limited number of representatives appointed by each National Committee.

It will therefore be understood in what dilemma the participants found themselves, faced with such a choice. It was not made any easier by the interest which each of the general meetings and study groups aroused.

The general meetings include the themes:

- Human Rights and Family Policy;
- Social Policy and Human Rights in Development towards a welfare society;
- The Rights of the Client;
- The Rights of the Child;
- The Rights of the Aged.

The study groups, attended by people of similar interests, were concerned with more limited subjects to be considered from the view point of the participants' experience.

Thus the concept of social policy was studied in relation to various subjects, namely the right to work; the right to health; the right to education and culture; the right to leisure; the right to housing.

In addition, the rights of the physically and mentally handicapped as related to social policy were studied, as well as alcoholism and drug dependency; migrants, refugees and human rights; and human rights and antisocial behaviour.

To give an account of all papers delivered and ideas exchanged, without being in possession of the documents finally issued, would be impossible. It would have required the gift of ubiquity to do justice to the work of the Conference.

However, we shall give extracts covering what appeared to be of particular interest to the Red Cross in the reports presented by the six commissions to the plenary session and which dealt with:

- comparison of the values and finalities of human rights and social welfare;
- human rights, social welfare and level of socio-economic development;
- social welfare in the light of the enjoyment and exercise of human rights;
- social welfare for the community and the problem of its reconciliation with individual rights;
- functions and methods of social work and social welfare and the safeguarding of human rights;
- the institutions created by social welfare and human rights.

Whilst the first commission stressed the specific value of each culture and the importance of women's rights, the second and fourth pointed out the responsibility youth is ready to assume for socio-economic development. The third commission laid stress essentially on the role of governments and voluntary organizations, not only as "partners" but also as reciprocally stimulating forces.

The members of the commission expressly drew attention to the need, on the one hand, of maintaining voluntary organizations' independence and, on the other hand, of those organizations' continuing their efforts to maintain or improve efficiency in order to keep abreast of developments in social welfare.

Although the fifth and sixth commissions dealt more particularly with the role and responsibility of professional social workers and social institutions, we may note two of their conclusions. One was to the effect that all citizens should be correctly informed on their right to community services and how to exercise that right; the other was that such rights, including social welfare benefits, should be available to any person—migrant or not—residing in any country.

Such, in brief, was the work of the Conference. However, we feel we should not omit to mention either the speech by Mr. Pierre Laroque, State Councillor (France), when he was presented with the René Sand Prize¹, nor the Red Cross meeting organized by the Finnish Red Cross and the League.

With the eloquence for which he is known, Mr. Pierre Laroque recalled the philosophy underlying the work of Dr. René Sand who, it will be remembered, was the promotor of the International Conferences on Social Welfare and Secretary General of the League from 1921 to 1926. He then delivered a paper on: "Human Rights, Social Work and Social Policy". This speech was divided into three parts which dealt with: "Civil and Political Rights and Social Rights"; "Social Rights and Social Work"; "The Right to Dignity and Social Policy". It was perhaps in the final part of his paper that Mr. Pierre Laroque's choice of subjects was of particular interest to the Red Cross world.

¹ In memory of René Sand, this prize is awarded for distinction in social service and presented at each International Conference on Social Welfare.

He reminded the meeting “ of the great need . . . for education in solidarity, to make people aware of their interdependence and thus create in them a real and profound will to provide for others, as well as for themselves, the means of material and moral existence which will assure their full dignity ”.

Mr. Pierre Laroque then broached the “ Modern Problem of Old Age ”, stating that it “ consists not only, nor perhaps mainly, in providing adequate means of subsistence to the aged. It consists essentially in assuring these aged people an appropriate place in society ”.

He then discussed the question of the disabled and after stressing the “ too frequent tendency to enclose them within their invalidity, within their handicap, by organizing for them a life apart ”, the speaker stated “ it is no doubt more difficult, but indispensable . . . to treat them always as men and women like everyone else, striving only, and with the greatest possible discretion, to facilitate their return to a normal existence ”.

Finally, underlining the considerable progress in modern legislation towards a replacement of assistance by insurance, Mr. Laroque concluded: “ We have tried to demonstrate not only the fundamental unity of human rights—civils rights and social rights—but also the contribution which human rights can, and must, bring to the definition and formulation of a social policy.

For such a policy fully to attain its objective it must strive constantly to respect everyone’s human dignity. And this can only be achieved by organizing the largest possible solidarity and a conscious fellowship.

Dignity and solidarity, dignity through solidarity, this is, this must be, the essence of social policy. In other words: social policy must be, everywhere and at all times, the expression of human brotherhood”.

These ideas are no doubt not absolutely new for many National Societies, but it is sometimes worthwhile hearing them restated apart from any Red Cross context, especially by someone who is an authority on the subject.

We shall not dwell here on the Red Cross Meeting as it was already dealt with in *International Review*.¹ Suffice to mention that

¹ See *International Review of the Red Cross*, November 1968.

AFTER THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SOCIAL WELFARE

it was preceded by a reception given by the Finnish Red Cross the previous evening to enable Red Cross delegates to discuss with the officials of the Conference and of the Finnish Social Services, that it included a visit of several of the Finnish Red Cross achievements in Helsinki, and that it was followed by a session under the chairmanship of General Martola, President of the National Society.

It is difficult to make an assessment of a Conference open to so many participants on such a vast subject as that considered by the XIVth International Conference on Social Welfare. That is why, to conclude, we shall consider it merely from the Red Cross view point.

Apart from the Red Cross contacts and exchanges of information made possible especially by the Red Cross Meeting, the International Conference on Social Welfare enabled our organization to make its presence known to the representatives of public and private institutions from all continents, not only through the showing of films and co-operation in the Exhibition which was part of the Conference programme, but also through the voices of various speakers and the active participation of a number of delegates representing both their National Red Cross Society and their National Social Welfare Committee.

Perhaps a place was never more generously given to the Red Cross than at Helsinki where several of its representatives were invited to take part in Round Table conferences and Commissions to promote the Red Cross mission.

No doubt this must be taken as a sign of recognition of the role of the Red Cross in social welfare, for the comfort it brings to the sick, for its struggle to dispel the loneliness of the elderly, for its assistance to the disabled to help them share in normal daily life: in a word, for all its activities in keeping with the spirit of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Monique ESNARD

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Bureau of Health and Social Affairs,
League of Red Cross Societies.

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

Presidency of the International Committee of the Red Cross

GENEVA, January 9, 1969.

Circular No. 474

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

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

Some months ago Mr. Samuel A. Gonard informed the International Committee of his wish, for reasons of age, to be relieved of his presidential office which he had held for over four years.

The International Committee has agreed to this request with great regret, expressing to Mr. Gonard its appreciation of the devotion with which he has carried out his task and for the considerable services he has rendered to the Red Cross cause.

The International Committee has unanimously elected Mr. Marcel A. Naville, a member of that institution since 1967, in succession to Mr. Gonard. Because of professional commitments the new President will not be taking over his duties until early summer, the interim period being assured by Mr. Hans Bachmann and Mr. Jacques Freymond, the two Vice-Presidents.

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Born in 1919 in Geneva, Mr. Naville graduated at the university there in the humanities.

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During the Second World War he was attached to the Foreign Interests Division of the Federal Political Department in Berne and subsequently became a member of the Legal Department of the International Committee where he was able to acquaint himself with Red Cross activities in Geneva and in the world.

After studies in Rome and Paris he took up banking as a career and is now the director of one of the large banks in Geneva.

* * *

By calling on Mr. Marcel A. Naville, the International Committee has the certainty of having entrusted its presidency to someone who will devote all his forces to defending and maintaining the work of the Red Cross to which his family is traditionally linked. He is in fact the grandson of Edouard Naville who was President "ad interim" of the International Committee in 1917 and replaced Gustave Ador as head of the International Prisoners of War Agency.

The International Committee is pleased that Mr. Naville will very shortly become its spokesman in the world Red Cross community and it counts, as in the past, on the support which the National Societies have always so faithfully brought it.

Yours sincerely,

**INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE
OF THE RED CROSS**



Photo J. L. Nicollier

Mr. MARCEL A. NAVILLE

President of the International Committee of the Red Cross

HELP TO WAR VICTIMS IN NIGERIA

The previous issue of *International Review* gave a table recapitulating to the end of December 1968 the relief activities undertaken by the ICRC in Nigeria and the secessionist province (Biafra), as well as the donations in cash and in kind which enabled it to continue and extend those activities. These cover various fields, and we now wish to explain some aspects. We would first mention that the appeal launched by the ICRC for financial support for its operation produced the sum of 40 million Swiss francs by the end of January 1969.

Help to war victims in Nigeria

The International Committee is pursuing, in Nigeria as well as in Biafra, its action for prisoners of war held in camps and prisons. Its representatives regularly visit these places of detention and attempt to bring material relief to those detained.

Vaccination campaign

Expected a month ahead, an epidemic of measles made its appearance in Biafra as well as in Nigeria in December 1968.

This is an endemic epidemic, often associated with smallpox, which periodically breaks out in West Africa every two years on an average. This year, because of the war and the general state of undernourishment, the worst can be expected.

Warned by one of its doctors in Biafra, the ICRC at once took the necessary measures by having a thorough study made of the problem, first in Geneva then in Biafra itself, by a highly qualified

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female specialist, Dr. Nicole Grasset, of the Pasteur Institute in Paris.

Under the responsibility of the local authorities, the vaccination campaign started on 28 December 1968, thanks to the considerable material support of the following organizations, co-operating with the ICRC: local Red Cross branches, UNICEF, OXFAM, World Council of Churches, Caritas Internationalis, USAID.

The vaccine itself which is extremely costly and prone to deterioration has been supplied by UNICEF and USAID, whilst refrigerator vehicles and the necessary fuel have been provided by the ICRC, the Swedish Red Cross, the WCC and Caritas.

By 20 January the number of children vaccinated amounted to 120,000.

The first part of the programme will be completed as soon as about 350,000 have been vaccinated. It will then be possible to make an objective evaluation of the first results.

It is estimated that a million and a half children will have to be vaccinated against measles.

In Nigeria itself where the epidemic does not seem to be so widespread as in Biafra, the Ministry of Health alone has taken the necessary measures.

Hospital treatment for seriously wounded

In the autumn of 1968, doctors on both sides of the front observed a disquieting disparity between the number of seriously wounded civilians and military personnel and facilities for plastic surgery or orthopaedic treatment. The ICRC therefore felt it was its duty to seek ways and means of solving this humanitarian problem.

Consequently, the ICRC directed its Commissioner-General, Mr. A. Lindt, to offer its good offices to the Federal and Biafran authorities in order to seek hospitals abroad prepared to admit serious casualties for whom suitable treatment could not be provided locally. The Federal Military Government replied that Nigerian

medical personnel and facilities were adequate, but raised no objection to the evacuation of Biafran war wounded by air over Nigerian territory. The Biafran authorities on the other hand accepted the assistance offered. An ICRC doctor-delegate was then sent to examine and select the patients.

A preliminary study revealed extremely limited facilities for appropriate treatment in African hospitals. The ICRC therefore asked nine National Red Cross Societies and the World Veterans' Federation (WVF) whether they would be prepared to organize and finance, in their respective countries, the treatment of a limited number of casualties. Several favourable replies encouraged the ICRC to press on with the operation.

On its doctor-delegate's return at the beginning of January 1969, with 107 case histories, the ICRC called a meeting in Geneva of representatives of the organizations prepared to act as host to the wounded, in order to decide on the necessary guarantees and arrangements for the transport of the casualties and their stay in Europe. Hospital accommodation for 51 patients has already been arranged. At the end of January, 21 casualties requiring facial and dental surgery, 3 eye surgery, 17 nerve and orthopaedic surgery and 10 nerve surgery, still presented a problem.

The International Committee of the Red Cross then asked all National Societies to give favourable consideration to the possibility of taking in some of these wounded, or of contributing financially to a sister Society's efforts to do so. It will itself only co-ordinate the operation.

Bombing of a Hospital

A hospital of the International Committee of the Red Cross in Biafra, located at Awo-Omama, was bombed on January 5 by a Nigerian aircraft.

As a result, there were four deaths, a woman and three children, and two seriously wounded, a man and a new-born child.

The ICRC has addressed a note of protest from Geneva to the Government of Nigeria in Lagos.

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The hospital is very clearly marked with large Red Cross emblems. It is sited on open ground some considerable distance from any military installation. Two teams of French doctors placed at the ICRC's disposal by the French Red Cross are working there at the moment. They have taken charge of several hundred sick and wounded and are supplied in food and medicines by the ICRC.

End of an airlift

Equatorial Guinea has forbidden the International Committee of the Red Cross to transport fuel by air from Santa Isabel to Biafra. This fuel is essential for generators producing electricity in the ICRC hospitals and for the 70 ICRC lorries carrying food and medicines from the airport, the terminal of the airlift, to distribution points in the interior of Biafra. The vast network of humanitarian relief is now paralysed in consequence.

As a result of these increased technical difficulties, Mr. August Lindt, the Commissioner General, decided on 6 January 1969 to suspend flights for the moment.

In order to break this dead-lock the ICRC has made a considerable number of representations, determined that everything should be done for the continuation of its action on both sides. Its sole objective is to be able to act, in acceptable conditions, within the meaning of the Geneva Conventions, on behalf of all the victims of the conflict in accordance with its own strict traditions of neutrality.

To show how the situation has developed up to the end of January 1969, we quote below the ICRC's press releases:

January 3, 1969.—*The International Committee is continuing its airlift operations between Santa Isabel and Biafra. On the night of 31 December to 1 January, 95 tons of foodstuffs and medical supplies were conveyed; on the following night 97 tons; and the next night only 41 tons due to unfavourable weather.*

January 8, 1969.—*The ICRC airlift to Biafra was brought to a temporary stop on Monday, 6 January. Only intercommunication flights continued.*

This airlift from Santa Isabel is the means of forwarding to Biafra food and medical supplies for the victims of the war and also the equipment and vehicles required for distribution.

The effect of the stoppage is to cut off ICRC relief to 850,000 people—children, women and old men—with all the tragic consequences which that involves.

Difficulties with the authorities of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea are jeopardizing the airlift operation, and it has not yet been possible to smooth them out. The most serious difficulty is the authorities' decision of 29 December 1968 forbidding the ICRC to forward to Biafra the fuel necessary to keep its vehicles on the roads for the transportation and distribution of these essential supplies.

In order to guarantee the totally neutral character of its assistance, the ICRC must keep full control, at all stages of the whole of its action. That is the reason why it must itself assume full responsibility for the transportation of its own medical and food supplies, from the point of their arrival and reception in Biafra, through the various central stores up to the centers of actual distribution.

As a result of the blockade to which Biafra is being subjected, the ICRC is unable to procure the necessary fuel on the spot. It is thus obliged to bring fuel in by the same channels as supplies. The volume of fuel necessary is approximately equivalent to 2.5 per cent of the tonnage of relief supplies transported.

Ambassador August Lindt, the ICRC's Commissioner-General in West Africa, who is at present at Santa Isabel, is endeavouring to obtain the Government of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea's consent to lifting this prohibition. He has, furthermore, suggested to this Government the conclusion of an agreement which would allow for a solution to be found to the various problems in abeyance.

The ICRC's airlift can only start up again once the fuel, essential for distribution, can be flown in.

January 15, 1969.—*At a plenary session of the International Committee, Mr. August Lindt presented a report on the position of the ICRC relief operations in Nigeria|Biafra.*

As a result of its consultations, the ICRC has reaffirmed its decision to set everything in motion to continue its relief action for all the victims of the conflict on both sides.

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January 28, 1969.—*The Government of the Republic of Dahomey has just given the ICRC authorization for aircraft to carry relief from Cotonou to Biafra for the victims of the conflict in Nigeria. This agreement made between President Emile Derlin Zinzou and Mr. August Lindt will enable flights to be resumed very shortly.*

The decision to transfer a part of the airlift to Cotonou implements the ICRC declaration of 15 January 1969 reiterating its firm intention to continue its action on behalf of all victims of the conflict on both sides.

The ICRC warmly thanks the Government of the Republic of Dahomey for its hospitality which now enables it to resume its aid to children, women and aged persons helped before the interruption of flights.



*EXTERNAL ACTIVITIES***Middle East**

Reuniting of families.—In spite of increased tension in the Middle East, the International Committee of the Red Cross has managed, through its delegations in Cairo and Tel Aviv, to get 143 persons across the Suez canal. This “reuniting of families” operation took place on December 30 at el Qantara.

Sixty-six persons (53 men, 5 women and 8 children) were thus able to go from the United Arab Republic to Sinai territory to rejoin their families in Gaza, Khan Younis and Raffah on the coast.

In addition, 77 nationals of the United Arab Republic (7 men, 20 women and 50 children) held for several months in territory under Israeli control have rejoined their families in the Nile valley.

The operation was carried out by delegates Marcel Boisard, Jean Eggimann, Pierre Josserson and Walter Wenger.

Repatriation of children.—The ICRC delegation in Israel received permission to repatriate to the Gaza area a certain number of children separated from their families, having taken refuge in Amman since June 1967.

This repatriation operation, the second such convoy which the ICRC has undertaken, took place in January 1969.

Destruction in occupied territories.—The demolition of a considerable number of houses having again occurred in territory occupied by Israel during the past few months, the President of the International Committee of the Red Cross has expressed his acute concern to the Israeli authorities over these demolitions which are contrary to articles 33 and 53 of the Fourth Geneva Convention. He drew their attention to the particularly difficult situation in which these families found themselves, deprived over-night of a dwelling-place.

Application of the Fourth Geneva Convention.—Following on persistent ICRC representations to the Israeli authorities stating that the Fourth Convention is applicable throughout all the occupied territories, the Government of Israel has declared that it wished “to leave open for the time being” the question of the application of the Fourth Geneva Convention, preferring to act on an *ad hoc* basis by granting practical facilities to the ICRC delegates.

On the other hand, during the course of various discussions which delegates of the ICRC in the Middle East have had with elements of the Palestinian resistance, they clearly drew their attention to respect of the essential humanitarian rules which also applied to acts of resistance, especially as regards respect for the civilian population.

Relief action in Syria.—On 17 and 24 January 1969 the International Committee sent relief consignments by air from Geneva to Damascus.

These two flights took 22 tons of milk and cheese for persons displaced from their homes on the Golan Plateau during the Israelo-Arab conflict, and whose plight, with the approach of the coldest part of the winter, is causing concern.

Other supplies of food and blankets have been sent to the Syrian Red Cross by the ICRC and National Red Cross, Red Crescent, and Red Lion and Sun Societies.

Tanzania

Whilst in Dar es Salaam, Mr. Georg Hoffmann, ICRC delegate general for Africa, had discussions with the leader of the Frelimo movement, Mr. Eduardo Mondlane, with a view to obtaining permission to visit the Portuguese nationals which the movement is said to be holding prisoner.

The ICRC representative has not so far managed to obtain permission from the Tanzanian authorities to visit these prisoners.

Senegal

On 19 December 1968 Mr. Amilcar Cabral, head of the Paigc movement, had a discussion with Mr. Georg Hoffmann, ICRC



Yemen: Arrival of ICRC aircraft at Sanaa

Moçambique: The ICRC delegate, accompanied by the Lourenço Marques Red Cross President, at the Mabalane labour camp.



delegate general for Africa, before releasing through the intermediary of the Senegalese Red Cross three Portuguese prisoners who were thus able to return to their own country. They were accompanied by a Senegalese Red Cross welfare worker and were met whilst in transit through Geneva airport by an ICRC representative. The Portuguese Red Cross organized the reception of these prisoners in Lisbon.

Moçambique

The Portuguese authorities gave the International Committee permission to visit, in November 1968, detention centres in Moçambique in which are held persons arrested for their participation in events.

Mr. André Tschiffeli, assistant delegate general for Africa, went to six camps and prisons and interviewed detainees without witnesses.¹

The Moçambique authorities and Red Cross granted him every facility to carry out his mission. As usual, the ICRC will send a report on these visits to the Detaining Power.

South Africa

Mr. Georg Hoffmann, ICRC delegate general for Africa, was in South Africa in December 1968 to have discussions with the government authorities and the Prime Minister. The ICRC wishes to repeat its series of visits to detention centres, the last of which took place in the autumn of 1967.

Botswana, Lesotho, Ngwane

The delegate general also visited the Red Cross and government authorities of the recently independent States of Botswana, Lesotho and Ngwane. One of the subjects he discussed in the three capitals, Gaborone, Maseru and Mbabane, with the leaders of the Red Cross was the requirements for recognition of the Society by the ICRC.

¹ *Plate.* — The ICRC delegate, accompanied by the Lourenço Marques Red Cross President, Dr Paiz, at the Malabane labour camp.

Hong Kong

In December, Mr. Hans Hefti, honorary ICRC delegate, visited two prisons in which were held persons arrested for their participation in the events on this territory in 1967.

As during his visits in April and in May 1968, the delegate interviewed prisoners of his own choosing. His reports were subsequently conveyed to the detaining authorities.

Yemen

A DC6 aircraft, chartered by the International Committee, left Geneva on January 21, 1969, for Sanaa, capital of the Yemen Republic, with a load of 10 tons of milk and cheese for the continuation of the ICRC relief action on behalf of the children in the capital, as well as with 24 cases of medicines, donated by the Bulgarian Red Cross, intended for the hospitals in Sanaa.¹

IN GENEVA

PRESIDENCY OF THE ICRC

Mr. Marcel A. NAVILLE, recently appointed President of the International Committee of the Red Cross, will assume office on 1st July 1969.

In the meantime, Mr. Jacques FREYMOND, Vice-President, will discharge the presidential functions.

¹ *Plate.* — ICRC aircraft at Sanaa airport.

The Red Cross, factor for peace

The ICRC had convened a Round Table conference on "The Red Cross as a Factor in World Peace". This took place in Geneva from January 21-23, 1969, and was attended by various notabilities of the Red Cross world. Representatives of the League and the Henry-Dunant Institute also took part.

This Round Table was the sequel to that which took place in the Hague in August 1967 and which was presided over, like this one, by Mr. J. Pictet, member and director-general of the ICRC.¹ *International Review* will publish an account of this meeting which, it may already be said, produced interesting results.

Guests of the ICRC

H.I.H. Crown Prince Merid, President of the Ethiopian Red Cross, and Princess Mediferish of Ethiopia visited on 7 January the headquarters of the International Committee of the Red Cross and of the League of Red Cross Societies.

At the ICRC, they had discussions with Mr. Samuel Gonard, President, and Mr. Marcel Naville, Committee Member, and they visited the Central Tracing Agency.

Their Highnesses were received at the League by Mr. Henrik Beer, Secretary-General, Mr. Nedim Abut, Assistance Secretary-General, and Mr. William Dabney, Under-Secretary General.

¹ See *International Review*, November 1967.

ON BEHALF OF POLITICAL DETAINEES IN GREECE

It is known that following on events which took place in Greece in April 1967, the International Committee of the Red Cross intervened on behalf of political detainees and was thus able to undertake a humanitarian action which the International Review has described on several occasions¹. It has been considered of interest to mention certain facts on the subject and show the present position.

Political detainees in Greece are of two categories:

- “ administrative ” deportees, who were arrested on the night of 20/21 April 1967, and deprived of their freedom for an indeterminate period;
- persons arrested after 21 April 1967 awaiting trial or sentenced for attempted subversion of the State.

Less than one month after the change of the government, the ICRC was authorized to visit the first category of detainees on the island of Yaros, and subsequently those on the island of Leros. In January 1968 this permission was extended to include visits to persons charged and sentenced in prisons for political offenders.

Enquiries have been undertaken regularly by ICRC delegates into the treatment to which detainees are subject from the moment of their arrest. Interviews without witnesses have taken place in all detention centres in order to gather objective information. The results of these conversations have been included in confidential reports which were, as usual, sent to the government,

¹ In its October 1968 issue, in particular.

Persons accused of or sentenced for political offences are subject to control by the Ministry of Justice and to the same penal conditions as apply to common law prisoners.

“ Administrative ” deportees come under the control of the Ministry of Public Order. Originally they were sent either to the island of Yaros (Cyclades) and the island of Leros (Dodecanese). Since the day of their exile, their number has continually decreased. At the beginning of 1968 they still numbered a little over 2,300. Following agreements between the ICRC and the Greek government, the island of Yaros was evacuated completely in October 1968 and 400 sick or aged detainees were unconditionally released. At present there are 140 women interned at Alikarnassos near Heraklion in Crete whilst men are detained at Leros Lakki, Leros Partheni and at the Oropos camp in Attica.

The ICRC delegation, led by Mr. Laurent Marti, regularly visited these camps and talked in private unrestrictedly with detainees of its own choice. Deportees' complaints were first conveyed to the authorities who, in a number of cases, took immediate remedial action. The reports sent from Geneva were also studied and discussed.

The ICRC obtained permission to set up at the Hellenic Red Cross headquarters a bureau for the benefit of detainees' families. All demands of a humanitarian or family nature are recorded and medicines are distributed against presentation of a doctor's prescription. In 1968 some 2,000 families were received and listened to at the ICRC office.

In 1968, the Greek authorities followed the ICRC's recommendations in the following main fields:

- complete evacuation of Yaros camp
- release of 400 sick and aged detainees
- increase in mail sent
- considerable increase in size of grounds for exercise
- organization of regular family visits
- distribution of clothing, food and medical supplies.

In addition, a considerable number of internal improvements were possible.

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It must be borne in mind that there is no convention authorizing ICRC delegates to visit political detainees. Such visits depend entirely on the good will of the government. Nevertheless, the International Committee of the Red Cross only agrees to undertake such missions provided it is allowed to do so without restriction and to act in keeping with its traditional humanitarian principles. It demands the right to be able to interview detainees of its own choice without witnesses. It is gratified to note that these principles have so far been respected by the Greek government and that several recommendations have been implemented.

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Cambodia

On December 23, 1968, the Head of the State Prince Norodom Sihanouk and Princess Neak Moneang Monique Sihanouk, President of the Cambodian Red Cross Society, inaugurated an infirmary at Beng-Khtum in the province of Battambang. The ICRC having donated a contribution to the construction of this infirmary, its delegate general for Asia, Mr. André Durand, together with several leading members of the National Society, went to Beng-Khtum, which is situated in a mountainous region and was founded three years ago for the resettlement of the refugees. Almost two hundred families live there today, dispersed over a wide territory. At the centre are communal buildings one of which is the infirmary just inaugurated. It has rooms for consultation and dressings, and wards which already have five beds.¹ The infirmary is operated by a health officer, a nurse and a midwife.

In the course of the official ceremony the Head of the State, in his speech, stressed the importance of the work undertaken by the Government to resettle the refugees. He also said how much he appreciated the work undertaken by the Red Cross. He later expressed to Mr. Durand his gratitude for the help given to the Cambodian Red Cross by the ICRC.

The International Committee had also donated to the National Society two "clinomobiles" which were in service throughout the year at Beng-Khtum, staffed by several nurses. The President of the Cambodian Red Cross visited these "clinomobiles" and observed the usefulness and efficiency of the medical and dental care which they made possible.²

Several days later, at Phnom-Penh, the Princess presided over the ceremony for the award of qualifying certificates to Cambodian

¹ *Plate.* — The Cambodian Red Cross infirmary at Beng-Khtum.

² *Plate.* — Princess Neak Moneang Monique Sihanouk, President of the Cambodian Red Cross, beside one of the Society's "clinomobiles" at Beng-Khtum.

Red-Cross first-aid instructors and "moniteurs". This presentation ceremony was in the main hall of the Chamcar Mon State palace and was attended by the ICRC representative Mr. Durand. This ceremony was of particular importance because the course which had just been completed was the first to be held and because, thanks to the National Society's initiative, first-aid will become more wide-spread throughout the country. The instructors and "moniteurs", who number 47, are doctors, health officers, medical students, midwives and nurses, who will in their turn train first-aiders in the various provinces.

After the speeches by the Cambodian Red Cross Director of first-aid training, who explained the teaching programmes, and by the eldest of the first-aid instructors at this first promotion ceremony, the Princess delivered an address in which she first recalled some historic facts concerning the Red Cross and some of the problems facing the National Society of which she is President:

...The Cambodian Red Cross today is thirteen years old. Leagued together and united it takes care of refugees and gives assistance to dispersed families, the wounded, the sick, prisoners and orphans. Our representatives bring on-the-spot relief to the victims of accidents.

Does this mean that the Cambodian Red Cross need do no more and should retire to the background behind the State? Some people think so and consider that there is no longer any reason for voluntary workers. May they never be heeded! Private voluntary work is a by no means negligible asset for the State. It brings with it a salutary emulation, and it especially offers those with zeal to do good the opportunity to expend as they wish, outside the official administrations they undertake, the wealth of goodness and charity which is theirs. This, this flower of civilisation, must not be allowed to perish for want of ground in which to thrive.

On the contrary, private voluntary agencies have the duty to co-ordinate their work with that of the State. It is incumbent particularly on the Red Cross to carry on its pioneer work, pro-spection, experimenting, support and contribution to social work in fields to which its action has not yet been extended.

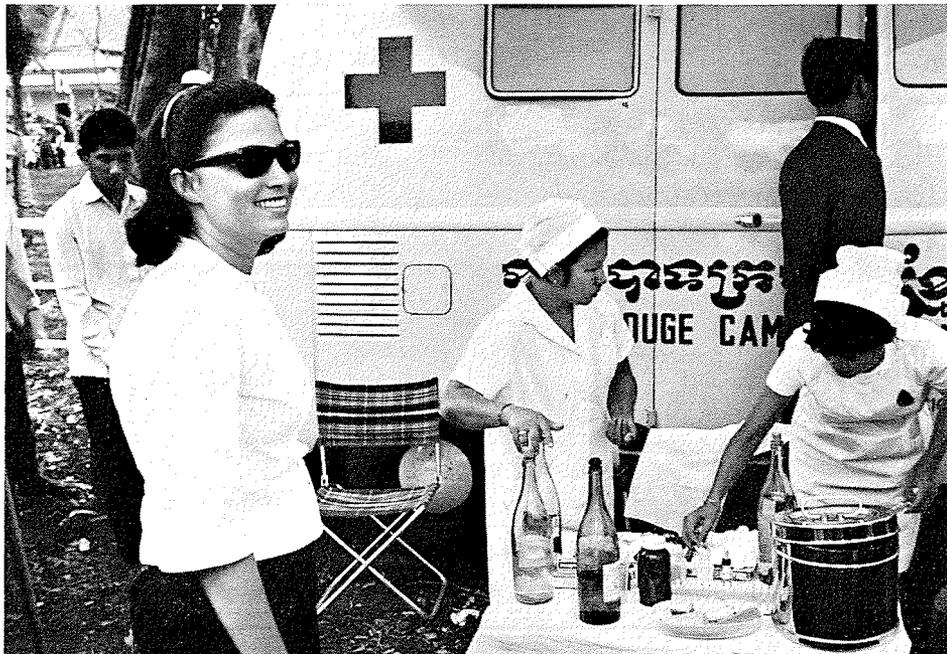
It is with this in mind that the Cambodian Red Cross now trains first-aiders. . .

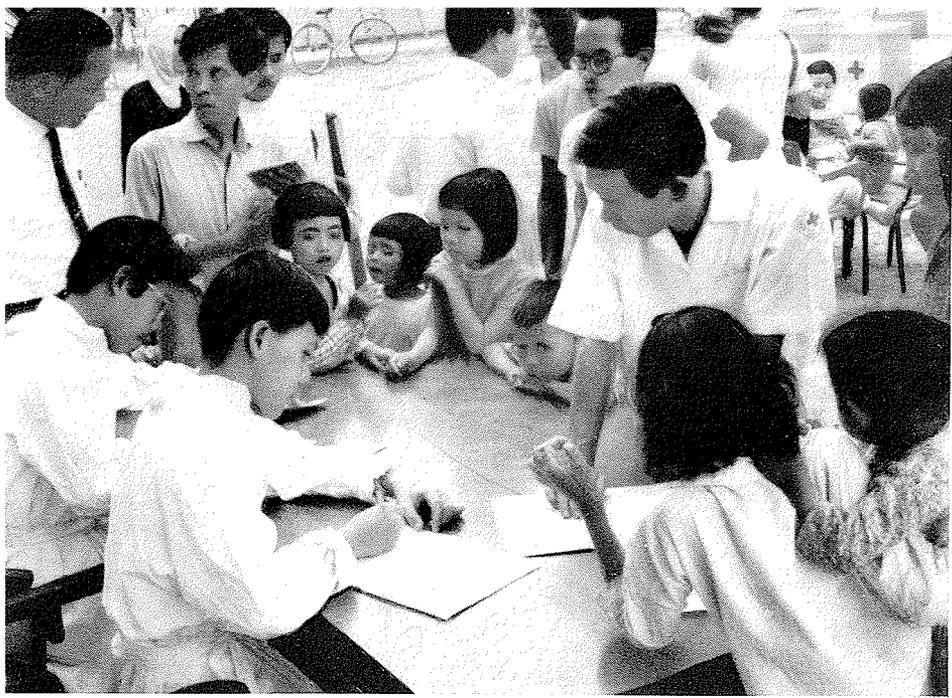


The Cambodian Red Cross infirmary at Beng-Khtum.

CAMBODIA

Princess Neak Moneang Monique Sihanouk, President of the Cambodian Red Cross, beside one of the Society's « clinomobiles » at Beng-Khtum.





Red Cross Youth first-aiders
see to the registration of refugees...

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM

... and distribute dried fish.



She thanked the Cambodian authorities who proved to be so generous towards the National Society and then, after congratulating the instructors, she addressed herself to the trainees as follows:

...It is not in the past that the fame and benefits of the Cambodian Red Cross reside; it is in the openings it makes for the future.

Against misfortune, human suffering, the vast unanimous despair of innumerable people in solitude, it would not be too much to unite the efforts of the public authorities, the Red Cross and all voluntary agencies, and yours too, the efforts of each one of you, of each one of you as an individual. It is thus that our charitable society would train first-aiders so that even in addition to the service it asks of them, they remain the indispensable brethren of whom their fellow men—far from dispensaries and homes etc.—may secretly have need.

So, you may say to me, there is no end to it all: will there ever be an end?

We are living in a century in which science expands its domain in an astonishing way over all things. It goes from discovery to discovery and applying, moreover, its genius to the invention of new methods to destroy more completely and on a greater scale the fundamentals of the human race. Science is implacable; it neglects the particular, it ignores the individual.

Yet nothing prospers lastingly which does not come from the heart. And the realm of the heart is the realm of the Red Cross.

Come join it then! Help it until the day when men will understand that the secret of happiness resides not in combat, hate, fanaticism; but in tolerance, forbearance, fraternity and peace.

Strong in these convictions, you should go your way as men who can be relied upon to give help where needed.

In the search for new activities to which, by its very nature, the Red Cross continually devotes itself, full importance must be given to effectiveness. This is linked to training, as the improvement of social work demands an ever fuller knowledge of the ways and means to which man must have recourse.

For his own distraction, man takes greater and greater risks; This is one of the most striking phenomena of the century. It is a matter for congratulation because humanity progresses only to the extent that individuals are prepared to take risks.

Nevertheless, it is necessary to ensure that these risks do not have serious consequences, for injury in an automobile accident may cause as much suffering as a wound sustained in war.

Thus, you have espoused the cause of first aid development, with the desire to serve, the will to do charitable work, which are the hall-marks of the Red Cross. . .

Republic of Vietnam

Our thanks go to Mr. U. Schüle for the following article, written for the International Review, describing the training, in which he took an active part, of first-aiders in the Red Cross of the Republic of Vietnam. Mr. Schüle, until quite recently, was a member of the League of Red Cross Societies delegation in that country.

There are hundreds of young people in the Republic of Vietnam who ask nothing more than to help others. They are of the generation which is acquainted with war, danger and upheaval. They are an encouragement in these troubled times for the Red Cross in their country.

Training.—This is thorough, for these young people are often called upon to perform tasks which go beyond what is usually entrusted to a first-aider. It is divided into four main parts:

1. Courses covering all aspects of the Red Cross, its origin, history, international and national organization, the Geneva Conventions, the basic Red Cross principles, and the spirit which should be the motivation of all members of our movement. The National Society lays stress on this part of the training, for it has observed that young people outnumber adults in the Red Cross, of which the first-aiders are the very important "missionaries". That the Red Cross of the Republic of Vietnam enjoys considerable prestige is due to a great extent to its young first-aiders. They are everywhere

where the Red Cross goes into action. Moreover, this part of their training ensures wide dissemination among youth of a knowledge of the Geneva Conventions.

2. The usual first-aid courses.

3. Supplementary courses on hygiene, communicable diseases and their prevention, and medicines. These young first-aiders also learn to administer injections properly. This is perhaps the trickiest part of their training. Normally first-aiders are not qualified to give injections, and first-aid courses do not ordinarily cover medicines. Anyone versed in first-aid as practised in countries at peace would be surprised to see the Vietnam first-aiders giving injections or intravenous perfusions. But the shortage of medical and paramedical personnel in Vietnam is severe and, consequently, first-aiders do not have "professionals" on hand as in Europe. It was therefore decided to introduce these courses in the training of first-aiders to enable them to act efficiently in case of need. At the same time, stress is laid on the fact that only a doctor is entitled to prescribe medicaments and that the first-aiders may only administer them when they have been so prescribed. The dangers of mis-use of medicines is not overlooked, and experience has shown that first-aiders do not exceed the bounds of their knowledge and that the training they receive in this field is justified by present circumstances.

4. The final stage of training includes a fortnight's service at a hospital, to give the first-aiders opportunities to apply their knowledge in the treatment of sick and wounded patients, and at the same time contribute to the staffing of the hospital. They are a great help to hospitals when there is a large number of newly arrived casualties.

The final examinations are always very stiff, and none but the really proficient candidates are awarded a diploma.

Their Job.—What work do the young first-aiders do at this moment?

First and foremost of the young first-aiders' activities is their participation in Red Cross relief work. They organize efficiently the distribution of food to needy families uprooted by war or natural

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disaster.¹ It is thanks to them that the National Society can give effect to one of the major principles of its actions, namely, that Red Cross relief should reach the beneficiaries direct through the Society's own agents. Distribution has often to be made in villages where only the Red Cross has access, but the first-aiders go to them with complete confidence in the protection of the red cross.

Relief actions are not their only activity. They are also active in the medico-social field. When fire occurs in a straw hut district, Red Cross first-aiders are the first on the scene to set up a first-aid post and to man it round the clock for several days. They often go to the outskirts of the town or to refugee camps with a doctor (with an ICRC doctor-delegate last summer) to organize medical consultations. The doctor examines the patients and prescribes for them, and the first-aiders act as nurse and supervises the treatment recommended by the doctor.

During the fighting in 1968, first-aiders often performed acts of courage. They collected the wounded in the fighting areas in Saigon. At Vinh Long it was impossible to reach the hospitals during the first few days of the Têt offensive, and it was the first-aiders who, on their own initiative, set up first-aid posts on the outskirts of the town to take care of casualties. Pharmacists spontaneously offered medical supplies; a proof of their confidence in the Red Cross. As a result, and thanks to their extensive training, the first-aiders saved a number of lives.

In other provinces they provided permanent relief staff for hospitals, in order to help hospital personnel and even to stand in for those who were for several days unable to reach the hospital. After these attacks, many families who had to flee their homes were sheltered in reception centres. In several towns these people were helped by Red Cross first-aiders who looked after children, cooked meals and saw to it that rules of hygiene were observed. In some provinces they are responsible for hygiene campaigns, for measures to reduce the rat population and for vaccination. Elsewhere they disseminate knowledge of the Geneva Conventions and Red Cross principles in schools.

¹ *Plate*: Young Red Cross first-aiders distributing dried fish to the homeless. They also register refugees.

All these young volunteers carry out their duties with enthusiasm and dedication. For the Vietnam Red Cross these first-aiders are an assurance of being able to discharge its humanitarian mission now and in the future.

Haiti

The official inauguration ceremony of the new headquarters of the Haiti Red Cross took place at Port-au-Prince on December 12, 1968, which also symbolized the remarkable efforts made by the Red Cross over a long period inspired by Dr. Victor Laroche, its new President.

Dr. Duvalier, President of the Republic, attended the event and leading personalities of Haiti, members of the Society's executive committee together with Mr. Pierre Gaillard and Mr. José Gomez Ruiz, representing the ICRC and League respectively, were present.

The new headquarters, consisting of two modern buildings, one for offices and the other for a large auditorium, had been donated to the Haiti Red Cross by the President of the Republic, who was warmly thanked by Dr. Laroche. He then ended his speech by pointing out that the new headquarters are intended to become a centre for medico-welfare, educational, training and assistance work.

“This building which is a concrete example of the highest human aspirations will in future be the planning centre for Haiti Red Cross activities. At this new stage a definition must be made of the concept which should guide its action and indicate its technical and social role according to the direction desired and expressed by our honorary President.

“If the National Red Cross Societies are ruled by the same fundamental principles and have to resolve many similar problems, each of their action programmes depends on the particularities of their own respective countries. Co-operating in the solution of problems raised by the suffering and needs of the Haitian popula-

IN THE RED CROSS WORLD

tion, our National Society must adapt itself to the real needs of our communities. To accomplish its mission, to "serve" better and give the most definite meaning to this word, the Red Cross of Haiti will plunge its roots into our own traditional setting. We must draw on those powerful ideas which should be the inspiration of our action both in our national individuality and in the Red Cross ideal. Whilst conforming to the Red Cross principles, our Society must express an aspect of the national activity. Energetic auxiliary to the Public Powers, it must take an active part in the medical education of the population, in the fight against sickness, accidents and natural disasters which constitute a threat to health, security and life. Its task is to co-operate actively and with dynamism with the insurance and welfare institutions. Its programme of action will be conceived with a view to prevention and not only to intervention. This action will be educative and of a formative character, whilst intervention will only have been the result of rational planning":

After Mr. José Gomez Ruiz, Head of the Latin American and Caribbean Service of the League, spoke a few words in his turn and expressed the League's congratulations and good wishes, the symbolic ribbon was cut and those present then visited the new headquarters.

It should be mentioned, in conclusion, that Mr. P. Gaillard, Assistant Director at the ICRC, assured the President of the Haiti Red Cross of the International Committee's support and examined various problems of common interest with him.

M I S C E L L A N E O U S

WORLD CHILD WELFARE CONGRESS

In accordance with the Statutes of the I.U.C.W.,¹ on the occasion of a session of the General Council, the highest authority of the Union, the latter can convene a World Child Welfare Congress. This Congress which meets in principle every four years, as provided by the Union's Bye-Laws, is held independently but in the same place as the General Council, which it follows.

As announced in the *International Child Welfare Review*,² the Union's Executive Board has decided that the next Congress will take place in Stockholm from 6th to 10th September, 1969 and that its theme will be:

“ The Child in the World of Tomorrow—How to meet his needs in a changing society ”

It will not be possible at this meeting to treat all questions relating to the child of tomorrow, but it is intended to concentrate on the most urgent priorities as well as on the basic aspects of child development, and, in particular, to study the tasks of child welfare organizations throughout the world.

The Congress will open with introductions by speakers who will present the setting in which the theme is to be considered and major issues raised by the theme. Analyses will be made of the rapid changes in the structures of most societies today which modify established social norms and affect the responses to the needs of the child. How can we assure that from birth the child in various parts of the world will not only be welcomed and protected in the dependent years but accepted as an integral part of adult life? How can we secure for the child an education adapted to his abilities, his need for love and security and to the requirements of a society in which he will be called upon to assume responsibilities later? How can we

¹ International Union of Child Welfare, Geneva.

² Geneva, 1968, No. 1, Vol. XXII.

MISCELLANEOUS

assure the child the mental equilibrium needed to adapt to a constantly changing world? What role does the family play in preparing the child for adult life?

It is from these perspectives that the task of child welfare should be considered. In fact, very often this role is still not clearly defined. It is necessary to determine the contribution which can be made in planning programmes and actions on national, regional and international levels.

Child welfare today assumes completely new dimensions: it no longer remains sufficient just to aid the child in distress. We must prevent difficulties in adaptation and development. New methods of action in child welfare and neighbouring fields such as education and medicine, for example, have to be outlined and put to the test.

Problems pertaining to children in rural areas and those living in semi-urban and industrial areas call for specific approaches and these will be treated separately by three highly-qualified speakers.

At Section meetings, participants will also have the opportunity of discussing relevant questions raised during plenary sessions. Each Section will have two sub-divisions, one for English and the other for French-speaking persons. Small groups will also be set up so that consideration may be given to points which participants may find of special interest.

Lastly, arrangements will be made for delegates to visit social institutions and to take part in excursions.

International co-operation in the field of social welfare has proved to be of great importance in promoting understanding between the peoples of the world. Exchanges of ideas and experiences help child welfare workers in various parts of the world to recognize universal problems and common goals, to work in closer co-operation in carrying out international projects and, against the background of world development and the world's needs, to arrive at a better evaluation of child welfare activities in their own countries.

BOOKS AND REVIEWS

POSTAGE STAMPS - A REFLEXION OF THE RED CROSS

For many years hardly a month has gone by without some new postage stamp issue in honour of or for the benefit of the Red Cross, the Red Crescent and the Red Lion and Sun. This, with the special postmarks, overprints, souvenirs issues of all kind, and vignettes, has made what is known as Red Cross Philately a very big thing.

The album of the Red Cross philatelist is a book on the movement itself. No event, conference, meeting, relief action or new National Society activity goes uncommemorated by the issue of a stamp. Such a collection shows everything the Red Cross undertakes throughout the world: blood collection and transfusion, first aid, education in hygiene, specialised institutions in health, nursing, voluntary work, Red Cross Youth... and the list could go on.

Public relations on a world scale is permanent thanks to stamps, for millions of Red Cross, Red Crescent and Red Lion and Sun emblems are displayed on correspondence sent through the post all over the world. Many of these stamps bring in by no means negligible funds to the Red Cross and finance long term activities and specific projects.

It is therefore not surprising that philatelists are caught up in their enthusiasm and that due to their interest in the symbols of the Red Cross, they have sought to know it better and to become attached to it. Many have become valuable militants in their National Society.

At this time of philatelic specialisation — the limitations of the pocket make it impossible to include everything — the Red Cross is a gratifying and enchanting theme. The craze which so many collectors have felt over two decades for Red Cross philately is no doubt due to the fact that there are relatively few Red Cross stamps — some 3,000 — and that their cost is relatively low.

BOOKS AND REVIEWS

Catalogues are as guides to philatelists and now, after the publication of some works of limited scope, a serious omission in Red Cross philately has been rectified. In 1965 the *Catalogue général des timbres Croix-Rouge* by the Geneva specialist Max-Marc Thomas, came off the press. Now we greet with satisfaction his 1965-1968 supplement, the first publication by the Henry Dunant Institute, a worthy successor in this field to the Commission for the Red Cross Centenary in Switzerland which edited the main volume.¹

M. GAZAY

Director of Information Bureau,
League of Red Cross Societies

¹ *Catalogue général des timbres Croix-Rouge*, Premier supplément 1965-1968; Henry Dunant Institute, Geneva, Editions *L'âge d'homme*, Lausanne, 1968.

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SOME PUBLICATIONS OF THE ICRC

The Geneva Conventions of August 12, 1949. 2nd Ed. 1950, 8vo, 245 pp. Sw.Fr. 9.—.

COURSIER, Henri. Course of Five Lessons on the Geneva Conventions. New Edition revised and printed. 1963, 8vo, 102 pp. Sw.Fr. 7.—.

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WARBURTON, Barbara. The Robinson Family. A short Story about the Geneva Conventions. Ill. by Pierre LEUZINGER. 1961. 43 pp. Sw.Fr. 1.50. (With the LRCS.)

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SCHWARZ, Gertrud. Table des matières de la Revue internationale de la Croix-Rouge 1939-1961. 1963, 8vo, 127 p. Sw.Fr. 5.—.

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BOISSIER, Pierre. Histoire du Comité international de la Croix-Rouge. Tome I : De Solférino à Tsoushima. Paris, Plon, 1963, 512 p. Sw.Fr. 22.30.

JUNOD, Marcel. Le troisième combattant. L'odyssée d'un délégué de la Croix-Rouge. Nouvelle éd. avec une préface de Léopold BOISSIER et avec un résumé succinct des Conventions de Genève. Paris, Payot, 1963, in-8, 248 p. Sw.Fr. 5.—

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 cooperation 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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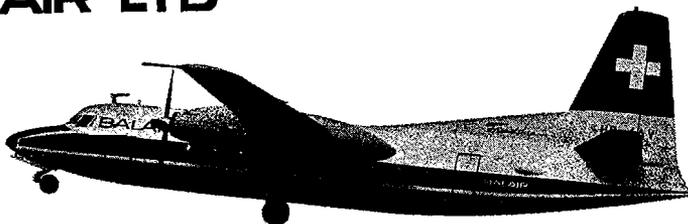
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- ARGENTINE — Argentine Red Cross, H. Yrigoyen 2068, *Buenos Aires*.
- AUSTRALIA — Australian Red Cross, 122-128 Flinders Street, *Melbourne, C. 1*.
- AUSTRIA — Austrian Red Cross, 3 Gusshausstrasse, Postfach 39, *Vienna IV*.
- BELGIUM — Belgian Red Cross, 98, Chaussée de Vleurgat, *Brussels 5*.
- 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*.
- BURUNDI — Red Cross Society of Burundi, rue du Marché 3, P.O. Box 1324, *Bujumbura*.
- CAMBODIA — Cambodian Red Cross, 17 R Vithei Croix-Rouge, P.O.B. 94, *Phnom-Penh*.
- CAMEROON — Central Committee of the Cameroon Red Cross Society, rue Henry-Dunant, P.O.B. 631, *Yaoundé*.
- CANADA — Canadian Red Cross, 95 Wellesley Street East, *Toronto 5*.
- CEYLON — Ceylon Red Cross, 106 Dharma-pala Mawatte, *Colombo VII*.
- CHILE — Chilean Red Cross, Avenida Santa Maria 0150, Casilla 246 V., *Santiago de Chile*.
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- DENMARK — Danish Red Cross, Ny Vestergade 17, *Copenhagen K*.
- DOMINICAN REPUBLIC — Dominican Red Cross, Calle Galvan 24, Apartado 1293, *Santo Domingo*.
- ECUADOR — Ecuadorean Red Cross, Calle de la Cruz Roja y Avenida Colombia 118, *Quito*.
- ETHIOPIA — Ethiopian Red Cross, Red Cross Road No. 1, P.O. Box 195, *Addis Ababa*.
- FINLAND — Finnish Red Cross, Tehtaankatu 1 A, Box 14168, *Helsinki 14*.
- 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*.
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- GUYANA — Guyana Red Cross, P.O. Box 351, Eve Leary, *Georgetown*.
- HAITI — Haiti Red Cross, Place des Nations Unies, *Port-au-Prince*.
- HONDURAS — Honduran Red Cross, Calle Henry Dunant 516, *Tegucigalpa*.
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- INDIA — Indian Red Cross, 1 Red Cross Road, *New Delhi 1*.
- INDONESIA — Indonesian Red Cross, Tanah Abang Barat 66, P.O. Box 2009, *Djakarta*.
- IRAN — Iranian Red Lion and Sun Society, Avenue Ark, *Teheran*.
- IRAQ — Iraqi Red Crescent, Al-Mansour, *Baghdad*.
- IRELAND — Irish Red Cross, 16 Merrion Square, *Dublin 2*.
- ITALY — Italian Red Cross, 12, via Toscana, *Rome*.
- IVORY COAST — Ivory Coast Red Cross Society, B.P. 1244, *Abidjan*.
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- JORDAN — Jordan Red Crescent, P.O. Box 1337, *Amman*.
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- KOREA (Republic) — The Republic of Korea National Red Cross, 32-3 Ka Nam San-Donk, *Seoul*.
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