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# **international review of the red cross**



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# INTERNATIONAL REVIEW OF THE RED CROSS

FEBRUARY 1971 - No. 119

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The International Committee of the Red Cross assumes  
responsibility only for material over its own signature.

# A Contemporary Look at the International Committee of the Red Cross <sup>1</sup>

by Max Petitpierre

## Red Cross Principles

The International Red Cross is an organization of three constituents. The oldest is the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), founded in 1863 by five Geneva citizens following the publication of Henri Dunant's *A Souvenir of Solferino*. The second is made up of the National Societies of the Red Cross, of the Red Crescent—in the moslem countries—and of the Red Lion and Sun in Iran. There are 114 such societies. There may be only one in each country. (In Israel there is a society similar to a Red Cross Society but it has not yet been admitted into the International Red Cross because its emblem—the Jewish Star—has not been accepted by the International Conferences.) The third constituent is the League of Red Cross Societies which was founded in 1919 and which is the federation of the National Societies. It too has its headquarters in Geneva. Its mission differs from that of the ICRC but the two institutions are linked by an agreement and they co-operate closely in certain cases. The ICRC also co-operates frequently with the National Societies which maintain direct connexion with it.

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<sup>1</sup>The article of which we reproduce the main passages here was published in *Schweizer Monatshefte* (Zurich, Nov. 1970) which we thank for its kind authorization. (The translation is ours.)

## A CONTEMPORARY LOOK AT THE ICRC

From its beginning the ICRC has been a private institution to which public functions have been attributed, which is something exceptional and may be considered “ the welcome consequence of general consent which places the humanitarian idea above political contingencies and accepts it as the acme of civilization ”. The ICRC is international only in action, not in composition. It is in fact a committee of Swiss citizens recruited by co-optation. Membership is limited to 25. It was not founded by an international treaty but it is well established in the Law of Nations. Its mission has been recognized to a great extent in the Geneva Conventions. It decides its own form of organization and its working methods. It is bound by the Red Cross Principles of which it is the guardian and of which particular mention should be made of the following:

(a) Impartiality, which demands that the Red Cross should have no bias and should discriminate against no one on the basis of race, nationality, religion, social condition, opinions or even responsibility for suffering inflicted or sustained.

(b) Neutrality, which is in many respects analogous to, but goes further than, the neutrality of Switzerland. The Red Cross must at all times remain aloof from political, racial, religious and ideological controversy. The Red Cross bodies, and their officials in the discharge of their duties, must, no matter how great the effort, avoid any stand which might jeopardize the success of their work. Strict observance of this concept sometimes gives rise to criticism. Some people would wish the ICRC in certain circumstances to protest publicly against acts contrary to the Law of Nations perpetrated by a government. This comes from ignorance of the function which the ICRC is called upon to discharge. It is not a dispenser of retribution. On the other hand, it has a duty to intercede with governments on behalf of victims entitled to the protection of the Geneva Conventions. Likewise, it may protest against inhumane measures but rarely may it do so publicly. It may and indeed must if necessary remind governments, publicly or otherwise, of the principles they undertook to respect when signing the Geneva Conventions.

(c) Independence, which demands that the ICRC be linked to no established authority of an international organization or of a

national government. As its neutrality forbids its interference in politics, so does its independence require it to prevent any inroads into its own sphere.

(d) Universality, which means that its work should reach all men in all countries. It is to the credit of the Red Cross that it has, in its own sphere, given tangible form to that universality which the most noble civilizations and religions conceived of but were unable to bring about.

### **ICRC Activities**

The ICRC is not the whole Red Cross, many of whose duties today have nothing to do with war, are of a social and civilian order, and are assumed by National Societies which have become genuine public services. The many activities of the Swiss Red Cross, for example, are well known.

Initially the work of the ICRC was connected with inter-state war. This is still the subject of the Geneva Conventions of 1949, one single article of which, Article 3 common to each of them, applies to armed conflict not international in character, for instance, civil war.

The work of the ICRC is not particularly well known because it does not lend itself to the sensational and is generally carried out discreetly. It varies widely and, since the end of the Second World War, the ICRC has almost constantly been present in those regions of the world where trouble has occurred.

In the Near East, during the 1948 Palestine conflict, the ICRC had in action teams of doctors and nurses who kept the hospitals running, collected the wounded on the battlefields, and established a safety zone at Jerusalem.

More important still, the ICRC, immediately after the fighting, provided entirely for the needs in food, shelter and medical care of 500,000 Arab refugees. It was able to do so thanks to the relief supplies, to a value of some 144 million Swiss francs, made available by the United Nations Organization. It may therefore be said that the ICRC is sometimes the emergency agent of the United Nations, due to its ability to "mobilize" quickly.

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The Suez war of 1956 was the first since the 1949 Geneva Conventions came into effect. The ICRC was able to carry out its work more or less normally and in addition was for a long time kept busy by the sequel of that war, particularly in arranging the migration of stateless persons forced to leave Egypt.

In the 1967 "Six Days War", opposing once again Israel and the Arab countries, the ICRC was able to carry out its mission in an entirely normal way and continues to do so today since hostilities have not yet finally ceased. On the whole, the Geneva Conventions have been applied by the belligerents so that the ICRC delegates have been able to carry out their traditional function everywhere. As it is, in a manner of speaking, a standard type of action, we might usefully stop to consider it for a moment. This war did not take the ICRC unawares. Indeed it had sent delegates out a dozen days before the outbreak of hostilities. During the first six months it had thirty delegates in action and the services of an aircraft which was a daily link—and the only one—between Israel and its enemies. At the beginning, emergency action for the war casualties was required. This took the form of large consignments of medical material which contributed to the saving of many lives. The ICRC next negotiated and carried out the repatriation of the seriously wounded casualties. All prisoner of war camps were visited regularly. The Central Tracing Agency received lists of the captives. The ICRC was able, with its aircraft, to provide a mail service between prisoners and their families and also to convey relief parcels. It soon arranged for the repatriation of some of the prisoners. The exchange of the last groups of prisoners between the United Arab Republic and Israel took place at the beginning of 1968. The ICRC also took part in the rescue of Egyptian servicemen in distress in the Sinai peninsula just after the cease-fire. Military operations displaced some 300,000 persons in Jordan and Syria. In order to help these victims, the ICRC appealed to the National Red Cross Societies and itself sent relief supplies to a value of 4 million Swiss francs. The League of Red Cross Societies then took over this action in Jordan. The ICRC attended to the return of refugees to their homes. After arduous negotiations, it finally arranged the repatriation of 15,000 persons. The ICRC delegates also endeavoured to exert a moderating influence in the Arab countries where Jewish

communities were in danger. In the territories occupied by Israel, the ICRC is the only institution able to check up on the application of the Fourth Geneva Convention under which the population should be permitted progressively to resume its normal economic and social life. Such supervision of living conditions (food supply, hygiene, legal proceedings, etc.) of a whole population is a heavy burden which should normally be incumbent upon a Protecting Power. But in this conflict there has been no Protecting Power, the Arab countries not recognizing the legal status of Israel as a State. Faced with this barrier, the ICRC has endeavoured to extend its usual humanitarian work, although unable to substitute for a Protecting Power. In many respects it has received the necessary facilities from the responsible authorities who have, nevertheless, left "open" the question of the application of the provisions of the Fourth Convention. In other ways, the ICRC has not been able to intervene effectively. It has not, for instance, been able to ensure a cessation of the destruction of property and the eviction of persons, both of which are forbidden by that Convention. On the other hand, it has been able to ensure the exchange of news between members of families separated by frontiers, as well as the remittance of money under an inter-family financial aid scheme.

The Yemen, where fierce civil war has been raging since the end of 1962, is one of the few countries where the Red Cross and the humanitarian principles had not previously penetrated. There was not a single Yemeni doctor and it was an ancestral custom to finish off wounded casualties and to kill prisoners of war. The ICRC has managed to have these practices abandoned. In addition, it set up in the heart of the desert the tents of a hundred-bed field hospital with its own operating theatre and in which 1700 persons were treated as in-patients and more than 60,000 as out-patients.

Under the peace treaty between the USA and Japan in 1951 the ICRC was entrusted with the distribution to former prisoners of war in Japanese hands of the reparation payments made by Japan. This work, involving 65 million Swiss francs, took years but has now been completed.

The ICRC fulfilled in Japan another role which was new to it. At the request of the Japanese Government it supervised the repatriation of Koreans wishing to leave Japan. It ensured the freedom

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of choice of all the more than 80,000 persons who returned to North Korea.

In the Indian Subcontinent, the ICRC was on several occasions able to ensure the general application of the Geneva Conventions; in, for instance, the war between India and Pakistan and in the Goa incident. During the war between China and India towards the end of 1962, it was able to carry out its work only on the territory of one of the belligerents, namely India.

The war in Vietnam is complex, being both internal and international, a conflict which the Government of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam has always refused to recognize as a war justifying the application of the Geneva Conventions and the intervention of the ICRC, arguing that its country was the victim of brigandage by the USA. While contesting the applicability of the Third Geneva Convention and denying prisoner of war status to American pilots whom it considered should be treated as criminals, the Hanoi Government stated it would treat prisoners humanely. The National Liberation Front of South Vietnam adopted a similar attitude. On the other hand, the Republic of Vietnam and the American authorities declared that they would apply the Conventions and authorize the ICRC freely to visit the prisoners of war, collection centres and camps, and to talk in private with the prisoners. The ICRC delegates have also been allowed, with some restrictions, to visit prisons in which civilians are detained for reasons connected with hostilities. In Indochina, the ICRC has been active for several years, in Laos where civil war is raging and in the Khmer Republic where the situation is constantly confused.

In Africa the ICRC has intervened several times. In Kenya, in 1959, when the Mau-Mau were engaged in tribal warfare against the government, its delegates visited all the captive Mau-Mau, numbering some 35,000. They obtained the suppression of corporal punishment. Since that time they have done the same in Nyasaland.

From the outset of the conflict in Algeria in 1956, until the Evian Agreements in 1962, the ICRC was authorized by the French Government to visit the camps in which many people were detained. Its delegates were therefore able to contribute to the improvement of detention conditions. The ICRC was also able to contact the

Army of National Liberation, and thereby to obtain the release of a number of prisoners held by that army.

In the Congo, during the disturbances which attended independence, the ICRC, apart from its traditional work of seeking missing persons and visiting detainees, undertook a new activity at the request of the United Nations and with the help of the National Red Cross Societies and the League, namely the forming of medical teams to run a number of hospitals in the Congo which the Belgian doctors had been suddenly obliged to leave. Some hundred doctors and nurses from a score of National Red Cross Societies took over, with considerable courage. One ICRC delegate and his two assistants were killed in this operation.

In South Africa, where there is neither armed conflict nor guerrilla warfare, but where the segregation policy is the cause of tension, resulting in arrests and imprisonment, the ICRC has been able to assume an activity going outside its normal scope. It obtained from the government in Pretoria the authorization to visit political detainees and ensure that they are well treated.

But the most important and spectacular ICRC action on the African Continent was in Nigeria during the war of 1967-1970 between the Federal Government and the secessionist region. This operation was spectacular because of the feeling aroused throughout the world by the tragic situation endured for many months by a population cut-off from the rest of the world and to which it was not possible to send needed relief although it flowed in from all quarters. This civil war, in which one to two million people perished, gave rise to the largest humanitarian undertaking by the ICRC since the Second World War, and also the most thankless. No other has caused it such difficulty or cost more in effort and money. The ICRC began its work immediately hostilities broke out. For a long time it was the only organization providing relief. It visited prisoners of war, forwarded family messages and tended the wounded. In the hospitals, its medical teams performed prodigies of work, each day saving human lives. In addition, the ICRC in Geneva constantly reminded the parties of the humanitarian principles they should respect. For the first time in Africa, a military government, namely the Government of Nigeria, distributed to its troops a code of conduct based on the Geneva Conventions. However, it was the

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material relief aspect of the ICRC action which assumed an unprecedented scale. The secessionist region was soon encircled and invaded by a whole population fleeing before the advancing enemy. There was famine in a short time, first affecting the children but rapidly extending to the whole population. It was against Red Cross principles for the ICRC to "choose" one of the two belligerents, as was done by other institutions which were not bound by those principles. There were indeed a large number of persons in need on both sides of the front. The ICRC therefore had to set up a twofold organization which, of course, was only possible with the agreement of both parties. Had it acted in the secessionist region without the consent of the Government in Lagos, the ICRC would not have had access to Federal Nigeria. It could not ignore the blockade of the secessionist enclave. The Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949 makes provision, in the case of blockade, for certain exceptions but confers on the blockading power the right to supervise transports, to ensure that they do not convey contraband, weapons and munitions. For some time the Nigerian Government tolerated the ICRC mercy flights over its territory taking relief to the besieged population. In June 1969, however, it put an end to that tolerance and the Nigerian air force shot down a Swedish Red Cross aircraft operating under ICRC responsibility. The four members of the crew were killed. The Nigerian Government also withdrew the co-ordinating mandate which it had previously permitted the ICRC to perform on its territory. The ICRC immediately undertook negotiations with both belligerents with a view to finding a solution enabling it to resume its flights. The negotiations were long and laborious and reached no result, each party stipulating conditions which the other refused. The ICRC's action was almost completely paralysed. Other organizations continued to send relief to the secessionist area by forcing the blockade. The ICRC was criticized for not doing likewise, but its position was entirely different. Those organizations were working for only one of the parties, namely Biafra, whilst the ICRC was also active on the federal territory. They were, moreover, not bound by the Geneva Conventions like the ICRC. How could the ICRC ask governments to apply the Conventions, its own every-day task, if it did not itself observe them strictly? Nevertheless, the ICRC's

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work produced substantial results. It forwarded to Nigeria 120,000 tons of food-stuffs and medicines (91,000 tons for a million persons in federal territory and 29,000 tons for a million and a half in the secessionist area) generously supplied by several governments, National Red Cross Societies and other charitable organizations. In addition to the ICRC's action there was also the large scale operations conducted in the secessionist area by the Christian Churches. The ICRC also ran 5 hospitals and 53 dispensaries and it co-ordinated the work of 45 medical teams. It vaccinated two and a half million people against smallpox and many others against measles and tuberculosis. The value of relief distributed amounted to almost 500 million Swiss francs. The expenses amounted to 50 million. They were so high because the ICRC was compelled to transport everything for the secessionist area by air. The air-lift operated for nine months. Fourteen ICRC delegates and pilots were killed on duty. At the end of the conflict, the Government in Lagos declared its desire to take over the relief operations which had to be continued in spite of the end of the hostilities. The ICRC withdrew, handing over to the Nigerian Red Cross all its equipment and some 20,000 tons of food. Despite all the obstacles encountered, the ICRC intervention was decisive in ensuring the survival of the population.

In Latin America there is no war going on but in several countries where there is high political tension and guerrilla warfare the ICRC's activity has been adapted to local conditions. It consists essentially in attending to the welfare of political prisoners but is meeting with difficulty because some countries deny the existence of such prisoners, claiming that all detainees are common law criminals. Nevertheless, during the civil war in Santo Domingo, in 1965, the ICRC arranged a 24 hour truce between the parties with a view to evacuating the wounded. The United Nations was able to arrange a prolongation, first provisional, then final, thereby restoring peace.

During the Cuba crisis in 1962, the ICRC received an unexpected request. In agreement with the American, Soviet and Cuban Governments, the UN Secretary-General, U Thant, asked it to co-operate by inspecting vessels bound for Cuba, then under blockade by the USA. The ICRC was asked to recruit some 30 inspectors for a month in order to carry out this supervision. In other words,

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the ICRC was invited to assist in measures designed to end an acute conflict and ward off the threat of atomic war. This mission did not come within the conventional and treaty obligations of the ICRC's humanitarian mission. Nevertheless the Committee considered it could not shirk the issue and it replied affirmatively subject to conditions, one of which was that the supervision would not be carried out under the emblem of the Red Cross. In fact, there was no sequel, as the parties came to terms. Several days after U Thant's request, Mr. André François-Poncet, former minister and then President of the French Red Cross, wrote in *Le Figaro*: " By a process of elimination, it was observable that at present in all the world there is only one authority which is not mistrusted by anyone and whose impartiality, neutrality and loyalty are recognized by all, that is, the International Committee of the Red Cross, the ICRC ".

In Europe too the ICRC had duties to perform, some the consequences of the Second World War. Since 1955, for instance, it has managed the International Tracing Service at Arolsen in the Federal Republic of Germany. This service, which employs 250 people, assembles information on persons deported or missing in Germany during the war and under the national socialist regime. It has 20 million index cards and still deals with thousands of cases each month.

The ICRC is still the intermediary for the payment of indemnity to the victims of pseudo-medical experiments carried out in Nazi concentration camps where those victims reside in countries with which Bonn does not have diplomatic relations. For this purpose the ICRC had to appoint a commission of neutral experts, including one of its own doctor members, which decides on each case's right to indemnity.

During the 1956 up-rising in Hungary and the months which followed it, the ICRC was the only international institution authorized to enter the country. It was not able to modify the severity of the conflict or act for the benefit of political detainees, but it was able, with the help of the Hungarian Red Cross, to organize a large-scale distribution of relief supplies to the needy population. This relief, to a value of 85 million Swiss francs, came from the great surge of generosity which was aroused in Europe. In Budapest,

66,000 children received a meal each day, while every night 7,000 parcels were made up for adults.

After the civil war which ravaged Greece in 1945 and 1946, the Greek Government, although bound by no legal obligation, authorized the ICRC to visit political detainees and to deliver relief to them and to their families. This work was carried on and even increased, and in November 1969 the ICRC set up in Athens a permanent delegation which brought about the evacuation of some camps and the release of many detainees. At the same time it even reached an agreement with the Government authorizing its delegates to visit all places where political detainees were held, including police stations, a thing unknown anywhere else.

### **The limits of ICRC action**

This account, which is by no means complete, shows how varied are the duties to be assumed by the ICRC. It also makes clear that the International Committee is at the service of a multitude of people of all races, religions and nationalities; victims of war or political events who, more often than not, may look to no one else for protection.

The ICRC's scope, originally restricted to tending the wounded and the sick and protecting prisoners of war, has constantly expanded. It is derived from three sources. The first is the four 1949 Geneva Conventions which have been ratified by 128 States. The purpose of the First Convention is to improve the plight of the wounded and the sick of armies in the field, that of the Second is to improve the lot of wounded, sick and shipwrecked forces at sea, the Third relates to treatment of prisoners of war and the Fourth the protection of civilians in time of war. The second source is the mandates which may be assigned to it, in agreement with the parties concerned, during or after an armed conflict. The third source is the ICRC's own right of initiative in assuming operations which are not provided for in the Conventions but which it may undertake with the agreement of the governments involved. It has taken such initiative for the benefit of political detainees who may or may not have taken part in armed actions.

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The ICRC has always taken a very broad view of its mission and has never feared to assume new responsibilities when dictated by the needs of mankind.

But the ICRC's scope depends also to a great extent on the confidence placed in it by the governments with which it must deal and whose consent is necessary to enable its delegates to work in the field. Cases in which its intervention has not been permitted are exceptional and generally motivated by political considerations, considerations which are foreign to the ICRC.

The ICRC nearly always finds the material and financial means to discharge its duties. It is helped in this by the National Red Cross Societies with most of which it is in constant touch, by governments, occasionally by other organizations which supply not only funds and equipment (medicines, food-stuffs, transport facilities, and so on), but also personnel (doctors, nurses, etc.). When the work involves supplying material relief, which is not one of the essential obligations of the ICRC, it co-operates closely with the League of Red Cross Societies except where it is imperative for intervention solely by the neutral organization, namely the ICRC.

The restrictions to ICRC activity, or rather the difficulties it encounters, are of an entirely different order.

The most important arises from the fact that the humanitarian law, the Geneva Conventions, is, like the major part of the law of nations, almost devoid of sanctions. That means that its application depends largely on the good will of the governments and military commanders involved in a conflict. The ICRC may intervene only so far as the governments and military authorities permit, and respect their commitments undertaken on the signing of the Geneva Conventions. However, it happens that governments contest the applicability of the Conventions as a whole or a part thereof. The ICRC can then carry out its mission only imperfectly. As reciprocity is not a condition for the application of humanitarian law, the ICRC may be compelled to assist only prisoners who are nationals of the belligerent which refuses to allow it to intervene on its territory.

It also happens that where the applicability of the Geneva Conventions is not contested attempts are made, by refusals, by shilly-shallying, by deceit, instead of facilitating ICRC action, to

avoid obligations under the Conventions, such as permitting visits to prisons and the interviewing of prisoners without witnesses. It might also occur that arrangements agreed upon with high authorities are not carried out as they should be by subordinate bodies.

The ICRC delegates' work in the field demands patience, determination, obstinacy and incessant efforts. This is due to the fact that all these delegates are always the enemy's defenders and protectors. It is for the enemy that they intervene, in international or civil war, or for political detainees who are hostile to the establishment; and the attitude to an enemy is rarely friendly. Modern methods of warfare such as air raids which cause havoc among the population, devastate towns and harvests and reduce fertile fields to semi-deserts, exacerbate hate and the thirst for revenge. Delegates are likely to be considered as nuisances or embarrassing witnesses.

Nevertheless, it must be admitted that, generally, ICRC intervention very rarely comes up against opposition on principle, even where there is little enthusiasm for facilitating its work. A government refusing to admit ICRC intervention generally proclaims that it will treat enemy prisoners humanely. Although humanitarian law has not become part and parcel of established customs and is not applied as it should be, it is at least rarely openly and cynically defied, except by small groups of fanatics who, to achieve their aims, do not hesitate to commit crimes such as the kidnapping of innocent persons, the taking of hostages and even murder.

### **Publicity**

One of the most delicate questions facing the ICRC is that of the publicity which it should or may give to its work. The question is more topical today than formerly in view of the development of radio and television which, except in countries where these media are controlled, enable everybody to keep track of events wherever they occur. As a result, curiosity today is far keener than formerly and is sharpened by the daily spectacle on television of the suffering caused by war. Although some ICRC activities adapt or even thrive on these new communications media, others, to be effective, must still be carried on with discretion.

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The reserve maintained by the ICRC is the fruit of long experience. It sometimes gives rise to criticism. A few months ago, for instance, a French politician, on the release of a Greek communist, stated that he would endeavour to do better than the Red Cross, whose great weakness in his opinion was that it did not publish the facts which it knew. However, to my knowledge, all he obtained by his publicity—and perhaps in spite of it—was the release of one man. The ICRC, on the other hand, with less limelight, through discreet but persistent action, has obtained from the Greek Government advantages for large numbers of prisoners and was even able to reach with it an agreement going far beyond the obligations which the Geneva Conventions place upon a government.

It may be thought that by making known all the unpleasant facts observed by its delegates, the ICRC would mobilize public opinion against a government and would compel it to come to terms. This is wishful thinking. The most obvious result would be a general stiffening of the attitude of the government concerned, perhaps even to the point that it would refuse to have anything more to do with the ICRC and thereby undermine any results which had been achieved. Publicity could be considered only if there were an international moral standard to which States subordinated their political interests and which would induce them to apply sanctions against governments which did not respect the Geneva Conventions.

Persuasion is the ICRC's only weapon. It must therefore increase its efforts to bring about an end to situations which are incompatible with humanity. Only exceptionally, and when there is no longer any hope of reaching a result, may it give facts publicity which would be tantamount to condemnation.

### **Development of Humanitarian Law**

Apart from these activities in the field wherever there are victims in need of assistance, the ICRC has another duty, one which is extremely important; the promotion of humanitarian law. It has always assumed this on its own initiative, but it is a task which has been entrusted to it also by International Conferences of the Red Cross which are held in principle every four years and

are attended not only by the ICRC and the League but by representatives of governments and National Red Cross Societies. The Geneva Conventions of 1949, like those they replaced, were drawn up from drafts produced by the ICRC with the help of legal experts from many countries. Today, this humanitarian law needs to be supplemented in order to take into account the experience acquired since the Conventions were adopted, and new fields which it is considered they should cover.

Although humanitarian law was adapted to the needs of the time by the 1949 Conventions, the law of war has stagnated. Most of it dates back to 1907, when the Hague Conventions were promulgated, when air raids were unknown, and before two world wars had caused the techniques of war to advance with giant strides. Yet the law of war and humanitarian law cannot be dissociated. War itself, and not only its effects, should be made more humane, since unfortunately the contradiction between war and humanity has not been overcome by the elimination of war.

For instance, no written law prevents an air crew from dropping bombs on a town and killing tens, hundreds, or even thousands, of women and children. If the aircraft is shot down and the crew bales out, they are entitled to demand application of the Geneva Convention relating to the treatment of prisoners of war; their victims are not protected by any convention.

The Geneva Conventions, but not those of The Hague, are the work of the ICRC. However, in view of the inaction of States and international institutions, the ICRC made inroads into the law of war after the First World War when it took upon itself the protection of civilian populations against the effects of modern warfare.

In 1957 the ICRC again took the initiative for the safeguarding of the civilian population. It put forward the general principle that whatever weapons are employed in a conflict the civilian population should be respected or at least not exposed to risks disproportionate to the military objective. In terms of that principle, it drew up, with expert assistance, a set of draft rules which was in principle approved by the International Conference of the Red Cross in 1957. The gist of those draft rules was that air warfare should be restricted by the dictates of humanity. Belligerents should limit their operations to the destruction of enemy military power and leave the

## A CONTEMPORARY LOOK AT THE ICRC

population unmolested. Consequently the rules would forbid attack directed against civilian population and populated areas. Bombardment would be permitted only of military objectives as defined and listed in the rules, even if civilians were in the immediate proximity of such military objectives. In any attack on a military objective, every precaution should be taken to spare the civilian population. The draft rules would also forbid the use of weapons whose harmful effects in space and time cannot be anticipated and may thus be uncontrollable by those who use them, thereby imperilling the population. This ICRC effort to eliminate the use of weapons of mass destruction has so far not produced concrete results. They are, moreover, duplicated in part by the efforts of the U.N. Disarmament Commission.

The ICRC has now started preparatory work which should lead to the development of humanitarian law in this field. The XXIst International Conference of the Red Cross at Istanbul in 1969, on the basis of a report which was submitted to it, formally assigned a mandate to that effect to the ICRC, that is to say to draw up new rules to supplement the present Conventions and for submission to a diplomatic conference—like that of 1949—to transform those rules into treaty provisions binding on States.

This work is encouraged and supported by the United Nations which is actively interested in it. Resolutions have been voted to that effect by the International Conference on Human Rights at Teheran in 1968 and by the U.N. General Assembly in 1968, 1969 and 1970. Co-operation has been established between the ICRC and the U.N. Secretariat and Human Rights Division.

The new treaty law should in particular provide civilian populations with protection against indiscriminate warfare, should prohibit certain weapons and safeguard the victims of wars, internal disorders and guerrilla warfare. The latter gives rise to some delicate problems. Who may legitimately carry out hostile acts, and against whom or what, is something which must still be defined. There must also be rules which belligerents must observe during hostilities, such as the safety of surrendering enemies; the treatment of parachute troops; looting; and blockade (bearing in mind the experience of the war in Nigeria). The chapter on supervision, reprisals and sanctions will be capital.

### **ICRC Organization**

The ICRC is becoming a larger and larger enterprise but, unlike industrial and commercial undertakings, the development of its work does not depend on it alone, but on circumstances forced on it from without and over which it has no influence: international or civil war, political struggles and tensions. Moreover, the success of its action often depends on its rapidity. It must therefore always be ready to meet unexpected and unforeseeable situations at any time anywhere.

Its work is becoming constantly more complex due to the disregard of some belligerents for international law and to new forms of armed conflict, such as piracy which has become a means of achieving political aims. Tolerated, if not downright encouraged, by some governments, it gives rise to new categories of innocent victims. It goes without saying that the ICRC unreservedly condemns acts which are crimes and offences punishable in penal law and which cannot be justified. On principle it refuses to aid and abet the blackmail accompanying these acts of piracy and it can assume no responsibility in agreements concluded under the pressure of blackmail. That is the business of the governments involved. On the other hand, the ICRC may not be indifferent to the plight of the victims of acts of piracy, held as hostages or whose lives are threatened in any way whatsoever. It must therefore intervene for their benefit, especially when it is the only body able to do so. This was the case recently when several aircraft were hijacked by a Palestinian organization with which none of the governments concerned had diplomatic or any other relations. The ICRC was able rapidly to assist the passengers of the three aircraft forced to land in Jordan, and it then acted as an intermediary between the Palestinian organization and the governments concerned with a view to the release of the passengers. The ICRC made it clear that its intervention was for the benefit of the detained passengers without distinction of nationality. On the other hand, only the governments could decide on the acceptance or otherwise of the conditions set for their release. It is often difficult to make a clear distinction between the political and the humanitarian aspects. The ICRC

## A CONTEMPORARY LOOK AT THE ICRC

must in each case decide whether and to what extent its intervention is justified on humanitarian grounds.

When bloodshed was caused by the outbreak of hostilities between the Royal Jordanian Army and the Palestinian troops, the ICRC, from one moment to another, was faced with a new mission in Jordan, namely the provision of relief to the victims of the fighting: the wounded, the sick and the prisoners. Under its direction and responsibility a large scale relief action was organized with the help of several governments, the League and National Red Cross Societies.

All this action is not something that just happens as a matter of course. The recent events in the Near East showed once again, in a striking manner, that in order to carry out its many tasks, the ICRC needs two things.

The first of these is an organization in Geneva itself, ever ready to start relief operations immediately, with permanent or temporary staff at hand for delegation in the field. As the work in the field is often concomitant with negotiation with governments involved in conflict, there must be simultaneous diplomatic action directed from Geneva.

In the second place, when war breaks out, provision must be made to ensure the arrival and judicious utilization of relief supplies; not always easy in the confusion which prevails where fighting is going on. Assistance to the wounded and sick must also be organized; this is the work primarily of doctors and nurses who at a moment's notice go out to regions which they often do not know. No tribute is excessive for the dedication and moral and physical courage of all those who as permanent or temporary delegates of the ICRC serve the Red Cross in often dangerous circumstances.

The most difficult problems facing the ICRC, apart from those arising in the course of its work in the field, relate to its organization, its working methods and the recruitment of delegates. It must be constantly adaptable in order to be equal to the circumstances with which it may suddenly be confronted.

**The necessity for the ICRC**

Since the ICRC was founded 107 years ago the international community has been radically changed. The League of Nations, then more recently the United Nations, have sought to establish peace in the world through the union of States, whatever their political systems, in a world-wide organization. Many organizations and institutions have been set up under their sponsorship with various objectives but with one common ideal, namely the improvement of the human condition. Unfortunately, those efforts to bring about a peaceful and harmonious world community have not put an end to the reign of force and violence; have not eliminated war as a means of settling disputes. In view of the failure of law and justice in international relations, the ever-widening scope of humanitarian law as laid down by the Geneva Conventions is still a necessity. In order to be effective, humanitarian law must continue to be a field which is reserved but universal, free from any political ties and State interests, and devoted entirely to the defence of the elementary rights of those who are the victims of circumstances. So long therefore as the world remains what it is today, the ICRC will be necessary.

**Max PETITPIERRE**  
Member of the International  
Committee of the Red Cross

# INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

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## *EXTERNAL ACTIVITIES*

### **The President of the ICRC in Latin America**

From 27 November to 3 December 1970, the President of the ICRC, Mr. Marcel A. Naville, accompanied by Mr. Pierre Basset, Assistant Director, and Mr. Serge Nessi, Delegate-General for Latin America, was in Nicaragua for the Ninth Inter-American Red Cross Conference, the report on which is given below. On route to Managua, Mr. Naville stopped in Venezuela and Panama.

*In Caracas* he was received by the President of the National Society, Mrs. Maria Eugenia de Alvarez<sup>1</sup>, who presented him, in the presence of the members of the Central Committee and many other leading members of the Society, the "Order of the Venezuelan Red Cross". After visiting the Venezuelan Red Cross headquarters and services, the President of the ICRC had interviews with several senior government officials.

*In Panama* the ICRC President was met by the National Society President, Mr. Henry Ford, who, accompanied by Mrs. Carmen S. de Quintero, Executive Director, conducted him round the Panamanian Red Cross Society's new premises. In the course of a reception given in his honour by the National Society, and which was attended by Mr. Demetrio Lakas, President of the Provisional Government Junta, and by several ministers, the President of the ICRC was presented by Mr. Henry Ford with the "Matilde Obarrio de Mallet" medal.

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<sup>1</sup> *Plate.*

## Near East

### Israel and the Occupied Territories

*Visits to prisoners of war.*—Several visits to prisoners of war in Israeli hands were made by ICRC delegates between 20 December 1970 and 4 January 1971. They saw 122 prisoners of war, 72 of them from the United Arab Republic, 39 from Syria, 10 from the Lebanon and one from Jordan. During each visit they talked in private with detainees of their choice. Their reports are sent to the detaining authorities and the prisoners' own government.

From 1 January 1971, ICRC delegates may visit prisoners of war every fortnight.

*Repatriation of Jordanian civilians.*—Three Jordanian civilians, captured in May 1970 by the Israeli armed forces, were released and repatriated under ICRC auspices.

### Lebanon

Three civilian Israeli Arabs recently captured in a village near the Israeli-Lebanese border were repatriated under ICRC auspices a few days later.

### United Arab Republic

The ICRC delegates again visited all the Israeli prisoners of war. On 23 and 24 December 1970 and on 5 and 6 January 1971, they saw two prisoners in hospital and the other ten in the Abassieh military prison. They talked in private with the prisoners and delivered parcels and letters from their families for handing over to the prisoners.

Such visits may take place henceforth every fortnight and as usual reports on these visits will be sent to the detaining authorities and the prisoners' own government.

### Syria

A family reuniting operation organized by the ICRC permitted 13 persons from Syria to join their families in the occupied territory of the Golan Heights on 16 December 1970. Shortly after, the ICRC delegate in Syria visited three Israeli prisoners of war.

## **Yemen Arab Republic**

The artificial limb workshop in Sana'a, to which we devoted an article last October, continues its work. Four patients received their final artificial limbs and four others began training with trial prostheses.

The ICRC's Dutch artificial limb maker and Swiss physiotherapist whom the ICRC was able to engage are helped by 12 locally engaged Yemeni (including apprentices for the manufacture of artificial limbs, one physiotherapist apprentice and an interpreter). In addition, Hungarian doctors performing amputations on casualties at a Sana'a hospital co-operate with the workshop, advising the two ICRC specialists for the post-operation treatment of patients.

## **Khmer Republic**

On 4 January 1971, the delegates of the ICRC in the Khmer Republic visited the Prey Sâr military prison, in which 27 Vietnamese prisoners of war and persons were imprisoned for political reasons.

This was the first ICRC visit to a place of detention in the Khmer Republic since the start of military operations in that country.

## **Republic of Vietnam**

Several visits to places of detention were carried out during November 1970 by delegates and doctor-delegates of the ICRC in the Republic of Vietnam. They went to the interrogation centre of the Vietnamese armed forces at Danang, to the prisoner of war camps at Danang and at Phu-Quoc, and to the Vietnamese military hospitals Duy Tan, Nguyen Tri Phuong and Phan Thanh Gian at Danang, Hué and Côn Tho respectively.

The delegates and doctor-delegates also visited nine correctional institutions: at Phu Cuong (provincial capital of Binh Duong province), Côn Tho (provincial capital of Phong-Dinh province),

FAMILY REUNITING OPERATIONS  
AT EL QANTARA ON THE SUEZ CANAL

9 DECEMBER 1970



Photos Dr Bernath

Rendez-vous at El Arish for people joining their families in the United Arab Republic.



Transport to...



... the embarkation point at El Qantara.



In the other direction, a boat conveys across the Suez canal persons coming from the United Arab Republic to join their families in the occupied territory of Gaza-Sinai.

Hôi-An (provincial capital of Quang-Nam province), Cao-Lanh (provincial capital of Kien-Phong province), Hué (provincial capital of Thua-Thiên province), Quang-Tri, Gia Dinh, Biên Hoà and Tay-Ninh. In addition, they visited the rehabilitation centre and correctional institution for handicapped civilians at Danang. In each of these places of detention, they enquired into detention conditions and the reports on these visits are sent, as customary, to the detaining authorities.

### **Southern Africa**

A further series of visits to places of detention was carried out by the ICRC in Southern Africa from 3 November to 24 December 1970.

Mr. P. Zuger, Delegate, and Dr. R. Wepf, Doctor-Delegate, went first to Angola, where they visited political prisoners and combatants captured by Portuguese armed forces. All prisoners are being held in two places of detention, a military hospital and a rehabilitation centre.

Four prisons, one of them a women's prison, were visited in South Africa from 18 November to 15 December. Mr. Zuger, together with Dr. R. Marti, Chief Medical Adviser of the ICRC, saw sentenced political detainees.

Finally, in Lesotho, the ICRC delegate visited Maseru Prison, where political detainees are held.

In all visits carried out in these three countries, the ICRC delegates were able to speak with detainees freely and without witnesses. Reports on these visits are delivered by the ICRC to the detaining authorities.

## **What does the ICRC Medical Personnel Service Do ?**

“ The stillness of the night was broken by groans, by stifled sighs of anguish and suffering. Heart-rending voices kept calling for help. Who could ever describe the agonies of that fearful night . . . There were few doctors, no nurses, no trained medical personnel. Dressings and the most essential medicaments were also lacking.” What Henry Dunant saw on the field of battle caused him to ask the question: “ Would it not be possible, in time of peace and quiet, to form relief societies for the purpose of giving care to the wounded in war-time by zealous, devoted and thoroughly qualified volunteers ? ”.

These few lines from *A Memory of Solferino* were at the origin of the founding of National Red Cross Societies whilst, alongside them, the military medical services were radically reformed and were soon granted international protection by the first Geneva Convention.

According to the statutes of the International Red Cross, the ICRC “ endeavours at all times to ensure the protection of and assistance to military and civilian victims of conflicts and their direct results. It contributes to the preparation and development of medical personnel and medical equipment, in co-operation with the Red Cross organization, the medical services of the armed forces, and other combatant authorities ”.

How does the ICRC medical personnel section go about this ? It works, on the one hand, with the National Red Cross Societies of the whole world to organize voluntary medical services in co-operation with the League Nursing Bureau and, on the other hand, it forges links with the medical services of the armed forces in all countries. In addition, it contributes to diffusing the Geneva Conventions among medical personnel. In time of war, the ICRC gives

its support to the medical activities undertaken by National Societies. These Societies, in time of war, civil war or even of internal disorders, must undertake many duties.

The first of these is to take care of the wounded and the sick and also to assist their families. The Red Cross is also active in the recruiting and training of volunteers and also purchases the necessary equipment.

Apart from helping the armed forces' medical services in this way, National Societies contribute to the protection of civilians, the setting up of reception camps for refugees, the prevention of epidemics, and the evacuation of civilians from dangerous areas. They also provide infirmaries and blood transfusion facilities. They assist the public authorities by co-operating with the Central Tracing Agency for prisoners of war in Geneva, *inter alia* for the forwarding of family messages and enquiries for missing persons. In addition, they make up and despatch parcels to war victims.

In recruiting, Red Cross Societies meet with serious difficulties. Although they do have professional doctors, nurses, anaesthetists etc., they must have recourse to a great many assistants who must be trained but who are not always available when required.

Recruiting methods vary from one country to another depending on the way of life, traditions and political system. The shortage of medical personnel in some developing countries, for example, could be offset in part only when women were emancipated and enabled to take part in the countries' social life.

Both professional and auxiliary medical personnel are protected by the Geneva Conventions. That protection extends to the medical equipment and buildings, by virtue of articles 24, 26 and 28 of the First 1949 Geneva Convention for the Amelioration of the Condition of the Wounded and Sick in Armed Forces in the Field.

Two essential principles are that workers must be mobilised rapidly and that they must give their assistance in the field promptly. For that reason efforts must be constant if the nations, as recommended by the medical personnel motto, wish " to prepare in time of peace to act in time of war ".

# IN THE RED CROSS WORLD

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## **NINTH INTER-AMERICAN RED CROSS CONFERENCE**

Organized jointly by the Nicaraguan Red Cross and the League of Red Cross Societies, this meeting was held in Managua from 1 to 5 December 1970. Twenty National Societies on the American continent were represented and the two international institutions of the Red Cross. Also in Managua were representatives of two European National Societies and several international organizations.

The opening session was held at the National Ruben Dario Theatre, in the presence of high officials of Nicaragua, including H. E. The President of the Republic, General Anastasio Somoza, who addressed the meeting. Other speakers took the floor, praising the spirit of the Red Cross whose permanence and example are more necessary than ever today, and recalling the urgency of providing better protection for individuals when internal or international conflicts break out. The meeting was addressed successively by Mgr. D. Chavez Nuñez, President of the Nicaraguan Red Cross; Mr. J. Barroso Chavez, Chairman of the League Board of Governors; and Mr. M. A. Naville, President of the ICRC.

That evening, the President of the Republic offered a brilliant reception in honour of the participants at the presidential palace.

The following day, the plenary session of the Conference was presided over by Mgr. Chavez Nuñez. Mr. Naville delivered a paper, which was heeded with attention, on the International Committee's activities since the 8th Inter-American Conference which took place at Bogotá in 1966, and on the projects of the institution of which he is president.

Mr. H. Beer reviewed the work of the previous four years and the programme of the League, of which he is Secretary-General. National Society representatives spoke on the work carried out by their Societies in their own countries.

During the afternoon a special meeting took place to consider the item: "Red Cross as a factor of peace, in face of political kidnapping, armed conflicts of non-international character and concerning political prisoners".

On 3 and 4 December working groups considered the subjects: 1) Medico-social activities; 2) Disaster relief; 3) Junior Red Cross; 4) Information and public relations. Mr. P. Basset and Mr. S. Nessi, who also represented the ICRC at Managua, took part in several of these meetings which gave rise to lively exchanges of views and demonstrated the interest of National Societies on the American continent in the dissemination of the humanitarian principles and of the Geneva Conventions and showed also the desire of youth to be more actively associated in the life and work of the Red Cross.

At the final plenary session, various resolutions were adopted. Three of them are of direct interest to the International Committee and we give the text hereunder. They deal with the dissemination of the Geneva Conventions, the Red Cross as a factor for peace and the dissemination in Latin America of the school textbook "The Red Cross and My Country" published by the ICRC.

To complete the picture, we would also mention that one resolution requests the League and the ICRC to produce up-to-date films. A decision was also reached to hold the next Inter-American Conference at Lima in 1974.

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### RESOLUTION 1

#### Diffusion of the Geneva Conventions

The IXth Inter-American Red Cross Conference,

Noting *with grave anxiety the recurrence of acts of violence and the persistence of disturbances in many parts of the world;*

*Aware of the fact that the Geneva Conventions cannot fulfil their essential role unless they are known to rulers and populations alike;*

## IN THE RED CROSS WORLD

Recalling *Resolution No. XXI of the XXth International Conference of the Red Cross (Vienna, 1965)*, *Resolution No. IX of the XXIst International Conference of the Red Cross (Istanbul, 1969)*, and *recommendation No. XI of the IVth Meeting of Presidents of the National Red Cross Societies of the United States, Mexico, Central America and Panama (Mexico, 1969)*, for the diffusion and implementation of the Geneva Conventions;

Considering *the memorandum addressed by the International Committee of the Red Cross on June 15, 1970, to the Governments of Latin America, and its Circular of August 26, 1970, to the National Societies*;

Recommends *the National Red Cross Societies of the Americas to initiate an active campaign for the diffusion of the humanitarian principles of the Red Cross and of the Geneva Conventions in their respective countries; and to utilize the documentation prepared to that effect by the ICRC*;

Invites *them at the same time to remind their respective governments of their obligations in this field and to request their support for the development of Red Cross projects.*

### RESOLUTION 2

#### Red Cross—A Peace Factor

- I. *The IXth Inter-American Red Cross Conference considers, without prejudice to precepts established in Art. 3 of the Geneva Conventions of August 12, 1949, that when, in any country's territory, social, political, religious or any type of disturbances arise, even in the form of urban or rural guerrilla warfare from which bloody consequences derive, when individual or collective kidnappings in the air, on land or at sea occur, and whenever victims of any type exist, both authorities and rebels are bound to respect the victims' inherent rights as human beings. To this effect, the National Red Cross or the International Committee of the Red Cross, through its delegates, shall exhort the conflicting parties to observe and respect human rights.*

- II. *The IXth Inter-American Red Cross Conference considers that when events to which the foregoing article refers arise, the National Red Cross or the ICRC, through its delegates, must intervene when possible at the scene of the events, to give all victims, with no discrimination whatsoever, the quick and efficient humanitarian assistance which they need, and must be permitted, in case of kidnapping, to offer and to give their assistance to the kidnapped person(s) and to his (their) family to help them in all possible ways and even to serve as intermediary in his (their) rescue, keeping such secrecy and discretion as the case requires.*
- III. *The IXth Inter-American Red Cross Conference considers that in the specific case of kidnappings at sea or in the air, the National Red Cross or the ICRC, through its delegates, must offer its mediation and give assistance to passengers of the kidnapped vessels and inform the passengers' families of their condition through their respective Red Cross.*
- IV. *The IXth Inter-American Red Cross Conference considers that the National Red Cross or the ICRC, through its delegates, can and must visit prisoners resulting from events herein referred to, giving them all necessary assistance and demanding from their captors or keepers the humanitarian treatment to which they are entitled and the privileges granted them by international treaties.*
- V. *The IXth Inter-American Red Cross Conference considers that the Red Cross role in favour of the victims of the events herein referred to should never be interpreted as an attempt to lessen State sovereignty or the self-determination of peoples or as interference favouring any of the conflicting parties, and that in these as in all cases in which it intervenes, its function is strictly humanitarian and absolutely neutral.*
- VI. *The IXth Inter-American Red Cross Conference considers that in order for the Red Cross to be a real peace factor in face of growing violence over the entire world, the International Committee of the Red Cross must take into account the present and all those considerations tending toward this goal so as to find the appropriate means and legal instruments for States to recognize the scope and importance of its humanitarian mission.*

RESOLUTION 9

**Junior Red Cross**

.....  
The IXth Inter-American Red Cross Conference

Considering: *That the ICRC has implemented the resolutions adopted by the XXIst International Conference of the Red Cross held in Istanbul, by the publication of the textbook "The Red Cross and My Country" as well as of the "Teacher's Manual";*

*Thanks the ICRC for the Spanish version adopted for Latin America, and*

1) *Recommends all National Societies and governments to adopt this textbook and to ensure its greatest possible distribution in the schools;*

2) *Aware of the fact that the resources of the Red Cross are limited, and in view of the need to proceed with the distribution of these publications, deems it necessary that States participate in their financing.*

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**REGIONAL TRAINING INSTITUTE — EAST AFRICA**

The first seminar of the Regional Training Institute for East Africa, sponsored by the League of Red Cross Societies, was held at Dar-es-Salaam from 3 to 27 November 1970. Some thirty representatives from seven National Societies of East Africa, Europe and America attended.

The ICRC, which had also been invited to send a representative, delegated to the Tanzania capital the Head of its Press and Information Division and also its two regional delegates for East Africa.

The subjects discussed at this first seminar of the Regional Institute mainly concerned general Red Cross principles, the Geneva Conventions, co-operation with governments, the United

**At Caracas:** the President of the ICRC, Mr. M. A. Naville, with Mrs. M. E. de Alvarez, President of the Venezuelan Red Cross,



and

**at Managua:** with Msgr. D. Chávez Nuñez, President of the Nicaraguan Red Cross and Chairman of the IXth Inter-American Red Cross Conference.





*La Cruz Roja Hondureña*

*Presenta este*

=====*Diploma*=====

*Al*

*Comité Internacional de la Cruz Roja*

*Como muestra de su agradecimiento por la colaboración que le ha prestado en el  
desarrollo de su labor en pro del alivio del sufrimiento humano y el entendimiento  
entre hombres y naciones.*

*Dado en la ciudad de Tegucigalpa, Honduras, a primero de Diciembre de 1970*



*Dr. Jorge M. Gómez Solís*  
PRESIDENTE



*Lic. César René Alvarado*  
SECRETARIO GENERAL

Testimony of gratitude from the Honduran Red Cross  
presented to the International Committee  
during the IXth Inter-American Red Cross Conference.

Nations Organization and its various specialized agencies, youth, relief to refugees and natural disaster victims, health, first-aid, and planning, administrative and information problems. A large part of the time was reserved to the study of African social and cultural structures.

In view of the success of this experiment it was decided to organize shortly a second seminar in Accra, Ghana.

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## Haiti

ICRC Delegate-General for Latin America Serge Nessi, in November 1970, went to Port-au-Prince where he visited the National Red Cross Society, development of whose activity is in full swing. We are therefore pleased to give some details.

In its report on achievements during the years 1968 and 1969, the Haitian Red Cross, which is presided over by Dr. Victor Laroche, gives an account of the medico-social work which it undertakes (vaccinations, X-rays, health education, medical assistance, first-aid and first-aid instruction, ambulance service, mobile first-aid post) and the social welfare service which takes the form of clothing and food donations. In addition, the society's scope has been increased by two new activities, namely:

- a) Free six-month courses to 500 students on the theory and practice of pre- and post-natal care. These courses are given at Red Cross headquarters and at several of the capital's hospitals. Students who pass the final examination are awarded a diploma;
- b) During "Red Cross Week", which is organized every year by the Society and which, in November 1970, met with considerable success, the Red Cross Blood Transfusion Centre was inaugurated in reconditioned premises consisting of a waiting-room, an examination-room, three transfusion rooms, a laboratory and an office for the director, Dr. Adrien Westerbaut. The

## IN THE RED CROSS WORLD

staff comprises five laboratory assistants, two nurses and a secretary. Several doctors give their services to keep the centre open day and night. The Red Cross hopes this year to harvest 2,000 flasks of blood and if the public does respond favourably to its appeals it plans to collect blood in other towns.

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### India

Last year the Indian Red Cross celebrated its 50th anniversary. On 5 November 1970, in the large Vigyan Bhavan room in New Delhi, an official ceremony was attended by the leaders of the National Society, delegates of local branches, and representatives of the international Red Cross institutions, of thirty National Societies and of the diplomatic corps.

In an eloquent opening address, Shri K. K. Shah, Minister of Health and Chairman of the Indian Red Cross Society greeted the Society's guests and all who supported its daily work, after which he evoked the ideal of the Red Cross according to which all men were members of a single family. The future of Red Cross and the future of peace were interminably entwined. If the world was to survive everyone must respect that ideal expressed in the words: "above all nations is Humanity". The history of the Red Cross was the history of the victory of generosity over hate, of life over death, of health over sickness and of peace over war.

The ICRC representative, Mr. Jean C. Ott, then read a message from Mr. Marcel A. Naville, President of the International Committee, conveying congratulations, good wishes and also a testimony of gratitude: "When, in 1961, the International Committee of the Red Cross awarded the medical team sent by your Society to the Congo a medal in recognition of their dedicated services, it also intended thereby to express its praise for all the members of your Society, which supported that team in its humanitarian work right

to the very end. Such solidarity with fellow-men abroad is proof of your Society's maturity and vitality. The various ICRC delegates who, since 1960, have visited the Indian Red Cross Society are unanimous in their recognition of the value of its members and their spirit of fellowship.

We hope that your Society's example over the past fifty years will inspire other National Societies and that in your own country the whole nation will ever support the high ideal for which you stand and will always help you in carrying on your noble mission as diligently as in the past ”.

On behalf of the League of Red Cross Societies, Sir Geoffrey Newman-Morris, Vice-Chairman of the League Board of Governors and President of the Australian Red Cross Society, recalled the important contribution of the Indian Red Cross to the common cause and also the team-spirit which it had so amply demonstrated. The Indian Red Cross had not only effectively accomplished a wide variety of humanitarian tasks in India; it had responded generously to appeals to Red Cross solidarity. The League joined wholeheartedly in the congratulations and good wishes for the Indian Red Cross.

The Minister of Information, Shri Satya Narayan Sinha, then presented the stamp issued by the postal authorities to commemorate this Golden Jubilee. The President of the Republic then paid tribute to the National Red Cross of which he is the Honorary President.

He first referred to Henry Dunant and his relief work for war victims more than a century ago. That work had expanded and today, although the Red Cross was born on the field of battle, its programme in time of peace was also constantly developing. Congratulating the Society for the work it had carried out in many fields, Shri V. V. Giri continued:

“ The appeal of the Red Cross movement is universal because it is based on human fellowship. To us in India the ideal of oneness of humanity forms the bedrock of our age-old culture. Our saints and seers have repeated this message time and again . . .

## IN THE RED CROSS WORLD

... The alternative before the world today is peace and progress or annihilation in a nuclear war. In this strife-torn world, an organization like the Red Cross, dedicated to the ideals of peace and goodwill, has a great role to play. We have to create a climate of peace and I hope the Red Cross movement will become a great factor in the achievement of lasting peace . . .

... The Indian Red Cross can look back with satisfaction on its record of service. Its Golden Jubilee is no doubt an occasion for joy, but it is also an occasion for calm reflection and introspection about how you can improve your services. ”

The ceremony was followed by a two-session seminar on 5 and 7 November, also in New Delhi. The substantial discussions were based on three themes:

- 1) League's Development Programme in the context of the Challenges of a Changing World;
- 2) Red Cross as a Major Factor in Social Work and Role of Youth in it;
- 3) Role of the ICRC in International and Internal Conflicts. This last topic was the subject of a paper by Mr. Michel Barde, representing the ICRC at the seminar which was attended by several important members of the Red Cross movement.

There were several receptions generously offered to the participants, as well as demonstrations of first aid which showed clearly the National Society's excellent organization. On 7 November, the closing ceremony was enlivened by junior members of the Indian and other Red Cross Societies.

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## Lebanon

The ICRC published in 1969 a booklet entitled *Rights and Duties of Nurses under the Geneva Conventions of August 12, 1949*. This brief and very readable exposition summarizes those provisions of the four 1949 Geneva Conventions which are essential to health services and medical personnel. In addition, it describes the principles and the very spirit of those Conventions.

In order that these basic concepts may be more widely disseminated in the Arab world, the Lebanese Red Cross has had the excellent idea of having the booklet translated into Arabic. The Arabic version, which it edited, recently came off the press, and copies are available to National Societies. The Lebanese Red Cross is to be congratulated for this generous and useful action.

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

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## RESPECT OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN TIME OF ARMED CONFLICT

Last month we published the text of resolution 2677 (XXV) adopted in December 1970 by the United Nations General Assembly and dealing with the respect of human rights in armed conflict. Apart from that resolution of a general nature, the Assembly adopted four others which were more specific. We think their reproduction here will be of interest:

### RESOLUTION 2673 (XXV)

The General Assembly,

Recalling *its resolution 2444 (XXIII) of 19 December 1968, in which it invited the Secretary-General, in consultation with the International Committee of the Red Cross and other appropriate international organizations, to study:*

*(a) Steps which could be taken to secure the better application of existing humanitarian international conventions and rules in all armed conflicts,*

*(b) The need for additional humanitarian international conventions or for other appropriate legal instruments to ensure the better protection of civilians, prisoners and combatants in all armed conflicts,*

Recalling also *the fundamental principle that a distinction must be made at all times between combatants and persons not taking part in the hostilities,*

*Considering that it is essential for the United Nations to obtain complete information concerning armed conflicts and that journalists, whatever their nationality, have an important role to play in that regard,*

*Noting with regret that journalists engaged in missions in areas where an armed conflict is taking place sometimes suffer as a result of their professional duty, which is to inform world public opinion objectively,*

*Bearing in mind the appeal made by the Secretary-General on 30 September 1970 on behalf of missing journalists,*

*Recognizing that certain types of protection can be granted to journalists under :*

*(a) Article 4 of the Geneva Convention relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War of 12 August 1949,*

*(b) Article 13 of the Geneva Convention for the Amelioration of the Condition of the Wounded and Sick in Armed Forces in the Field of 12 August 1949,*

*(c) Article 13 of the Geneva Convention for the Amelioration of the Condition of Wounded, Sick and Shipwrecked Members of Armed Forces at Sea of 12 August 1949,*

*(d) Article 4 of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War of 12 August 1949,*

*Being aware, however, that these provisions do not cover some categories of journalists engaged in dangerous missions and do not correspond to their present needs,*

*Convinced of the need for an additional humanitarian international instrument to ensure the better protection of journalists engaged in dangerous missions, particularly in areas where an armed conflict is taking place,*

*1. Expresses its grave concern about the fate of press correspondents carrying out dangerous missions;*

*2. Expresses its deepest regret that some of those correspondents have paid with their lives for their conscientious approach to their missions;*

## MISCELLANEOUS

3. Invites all States and all authorities parties to an armed conflict to respect and apply in all circumstances the provisions of the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 in so far as they are applicable, in particular, to war correspondents who accompany armed forces but are not actually a part of them;

4. Invites the Economic and Social Council to request the Commission on Human Rights to consider at its next session the possibility of preparing a draft international agreement ensuring the protection of journalists engaged in dangerous missions and providing, inter alia, for the creation of a universally recognized and guaranteed identification document;

5. Invites the Commission on Human Rights to consider this question as a matter of priority at its twenty-seventh session in order that a draft international agreement may be adopted as soon as possible by the General Assembly or by some other appropriate international body;

6. Requests the Secretary-General, in consultation with the International Committee of the Red Cross and other appropriate international organizations, to submit a report on this question to the General Assembly at its twenty-sixth session;

7. Decides to give the highest priority to the consideration of this question at its twenty-sixth session.

### RESOLUTION 2674 (XXV)

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 2444 (XXIII) of 19 December 1968 and 2597 (XXIV) of 16 December 1969 and noting resolution XXIII adopted by the International Conference on Human Rights held at Teheran in 1968,

Referring to resolution XIII and to the other pertinent resolutions on human rights in armed conflicts adopted at the twenty-first International Conference of the Red Cross, held at Istanbul in 1969,

Expressing its deep concern in connexion with the fact that wars unleashed in violation of the Charter of the United Nations in several

*parts of the world lead to incalculable disasters and suffering among civilians,*

Having considered with appreciation *the Secretary-General's report on respect for human rights in armed conflicts,*<sup>1</sup>

1. Solemnly reaffirms that, in order effectively to guarantee human rights, all States should devote their efforts to averting the unleashing of aggressive wars and armed conflicts that violate the Charter of the United Nations and the provisions of the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Co-operation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations;

2. Condemns the actions of countries which, in flagrant violation of the Charter, continue to conduct aggressive wars and defy the generally accepted principles of the Geneva Protocol of 1925 and the Geneva Conventions of 1949;

3. Considers that the principles of the Geneva Protocol of 1925 and the Geneva Conventions of 1949 should be strictly observed by all States and that States violating these international instruments should be condemned and held responsible to the world community;

4. Affirms that the participants in resistance movements and the freedom fighters in southern Africa and territories under colonial and alien domination and foreign occupation, struggling for their liberation and self-determination, should be treated, in case of their arrest, as prisoners of war in accordance with the principles of the Hague Convention of 1907 and the Geneva Conventions of 1949;

5. Considers that air bombardments of civilian populations and the use of asphyxiating, poisonous or other gases and of all analogous liquids, materials and devices, as well as bacteriological (biological) weapons, constitute a flagrant violation of the Hague Convention of 1907, the Geneva Protocol of 1925 and the Geneva Conventions of 1949;

6. Recognizes the necessity of developing additional international instruments providing for the protection of civilian populations and freedom fighters against colonial and foreign domination as well as against racist régimes.

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<sup>1</sup> A/8052.

RESOLUTION 2675 (XXV)

The General Assembly,

Noting that in the present century the international community has accepted an increased role and new responsibilities for the alleviation of human suffering in any form and in particular during armed conflicts,

Recalling that to this end a series of international instruments has been adopted, including the four Geneva Conventions of 1949,

Recalling further its resolution 2444 (XXIII) of 19 December 1968 on respect for human rights in armed conflicts,

Bearing in mind the need for measures to ensure the better protection of human rights in armed conflicts of all types,

Noting with appreciation the work that is being undertaken in this respect by the International Committee of the Red Cross,

Noting with appreciation the reports of the Secretary-General on respect for human rights in armed conflicts,<sup>1</sup>

Convinced that civilian populations are in special need of increased protection in time of armed conflicts,

Recognizing the importance of the strict application of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War of 12 August 1949,

Affirms the following basic principles for the protection of civilian populations in armed conflicts, without prejudice to their future elaboration within the framework of progressive development of the international law of armed conflict:

1. Fundamental human rights, as accepted in international law and laid down in international instruments, continue to apply fully in situations of armed conflict.

2. In the conduct of military operations during armed conflicts, a distinction must be made at all times between persons actively taking part in the hostilities and civilian populations.

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<sup>1</sup> A/7720, A/8052.

3. *In the conduct of military operations, every effort should be made to spare civilian populations from the ravages of war, and all necessary precautions should be taken to avoid injury, loss or damage to civilian populations.*

4. *Civilian populations as such should not be the object of military operations.*

5. *Dwellings and other installations that are used only by civilian populations should not be the object of military operations.*

6. *Places or areas designated for the sole protection of civilians, such as hospital zones or similar refuges, should not be the object of military operations.*

7. *Civilian populations, or individual members thereof, should not be the object of reprisals, forcible transfers or other assaults on their integrity.*

8. *The provision of international relief to civilian populations is in conformity with the humanitarian principles of the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international instruments in the field of human rights. The Declaration of Principles for International Humanitarian Relief to the Civil Population in Disaster Situations, as laid down in resolution XXVI, adopted by the twenty-first International Conference of the Red Cross, shall apply in situations of armed conflict, and all parties to a conflict should make every effort to facilitate this application.*

RESOLUTION 2676 (XXV)

The General Assembly,

Recalling that the Preamble of the Charter of the United Nations affirms faith in the dignity and worth of the human person,

Recalling that the United Nations has as one of its purposes the achievement of international co-operation in solving international problems of a humanitarian character and the promotion of respect for human rights,

## MISCELLANEOUS

*Reiterating the obligation of Member States for the urgent termination of all armed aggression as envisaged in Articles 1 and 2 of the Charter and in other relevant documents of the United Nations,*

*Noting the obligation of Member States under the Charter to promote universal respect for, and observance of, human rights,*

*Recalling resolutions 2444 (XXIII) of 19 December 1968 and 2597 (XXIV) of 16 December 1969 in which it requested the Secretary-General in consultation with the International Committee of the Red Cross, to continue to study, inter alia:*

*(a) Steps which could be taken to secure the better application of existing humanitarian international conventions and rules in all armed conflicts,*

*(b) The need for additional humanitarian international conventions or for other appropriate legal instruments to ensure the better protection of civilians, prisoners and combatants in all armed conflicts,*

*Believing, therefore, that the treatment accorded to victims of war and armed aggression is a concern of the United Nations,*

*Noting resolution XI, adopted by the twenty-first International Conference of the Red Cross, held at Istanbul in 1969, calling upon all parties to the Geneva Convention relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War of 12 August 1949, to ensure that all persons entitled to prisoner-of-war status are treated humanely and given the fullest measure of protection prescribed by the Convention, and that all parties involved in an armed conflict, no matter how it is characterized, provide free access to prisoners of war and to all places of their detention by a protecting Power or by the International Committee of the Red Cross,*

*Considering that the direct repatriation of seriously wounded and seriously sick prisoners of war and the repatriation or internment in a neutral country of prisoners of war who have undergone a long period of captivity constitute important aspects of human rights as advanced and preserved under the Geneva Convention of 1949 and the Charter of the United Nations,*

*1. Calls upon all parties to any armed conflict to comply with the terms and provisions of the Geneva Convention relative to the Treat-*

*ment of Prisoners of War, of 12 August 1949, so as to ensure the humane treatment of all persons entitled to the protection of the Convention and, inter alia, to permit regular inspection, in accordance with the Convention, of all places of detention of prisoners of war by a protecting Power or humanitarian organization such as the International Committee of the Red Cross;*

2. *Endorses the continuing efforts of the International Committee of the Red Cross to secure the effective application of the Geneva Convention of 1949;*

3. *Requests the Secretary-General to exert all efforts to obtain humane treatment for prisoners of war, especially for the victims of armed aggression and colonial suppression;*

4. *Urges compliance with article 109 of the Geneva Convention of 1949, which requires the repatriation of seriously wounded and seriously sick prisoners of war and which provides for agreements with a view to the direct repatriation or internment in a neutral country of able-bodied prisoners of war who have undergone a long period of captivity;*

5. *Urges that combatants in all armed conflicts not covered by article 4 of the Geneva Convention of 1949 be accorded the same humane treatment defined by the principles of international law applied to prisoners of war;*

6. *Urges strict compliance with the provisions of the existing international instruments concerning human rights in armed conflicts, and urges those States which have not yet done so to ratify or accede to the relevant instruments in order to facilitate in all aspects the protection of the victims of armed conflicts.*

#### **XIVth DISCUSSION ON INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL LAW**

This fourteenth discussion took place on 24 November 1970 at ICRC headquarters. Delegates were present from the International Committee of Military Medicine and Pharmacy, the World Medical Association and the ICRC. The World Health Organization, the League of Red Cross Societies, the Commission médico-juridique de Monaco and the International Committee for the Neutrality of Medicine sent observers.

The meeting approved drafts submitted by the ICRC for the better protection of military and civilian wounded and sick and of civilian medical personnel in time of international or internal conflict. The same drafts will be submitted to the conference of experts convened by the ICRC on the reaffirmation and development of humanitarian law. Participants at the discussion put forward some interesting suggestions which the International Committee of the Red Cross has taken into account.

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## BOOKS AND REVIEWS

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C. M. RINGGENBERG: "DIE BEZIEHUNGEN  
ZWISCHEN DEM ROTEN KREUZ UND DEM VÖLKERBUND"<sup>1</sup>

Today, with so many international problems under scrutiny, Miss Cécile M. Ringgenberg has had the happy thought of examining the history of the relations between the Red Cross and the League of Nations, a history which is interesting for a number of reasons.

In the first part of the book, the interacting influences are unfolded, that of the Red Cross upon the actual creation of the League of Nations and how the latter influenced the peacetime development of the Red Cross. The Geneva Convention of 1864 struck the first blow against war, and the League of Nations, following similar lines, aspired to eliminate war for all time. That was the current opinion of the time, and the whole development is traced in Miss Ringgenberg's book.

There comes next the description of the early days of co-operation, in a Europe still confused during the aftermath of the war. As it becomes apparent that the difficulties were overcome thanks to Red Cross experience on the one hand, and to the material and diplomatic support forthcoming from the League of Nations, it is the stately figure of Nansen that stands out boldly. When he set out to execute, with the support of the League of Nations, a task already begun by the ICRC, he pleaded and persuaded all alone, at a moment that was perhaps decisive, and obtained the means to accomplish the great relief action with which we are all familiar. Miss Ringgenberg, who worked at the ICRC in Geneva and in Africa, quotes some interesting documents that shed further light on the relations between Nansen and the ICRC.

The results achieved in the field of hygiene and child welfare are among those standing to the credit of the first world organization, which co-operated with the ICRC in this work. On a wider plane, the author studies the meaning of Article 25 of the League

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<sup>1</sup> Published by Verlag Herbert Lang, Berne, 1970, 110 pages.

## BOOKS AND REVIEWS

of Nations Covenant which was in the nature of a legal link connecting the two institutions.

On the issue of war, the ways parted, however. The ICRC could not forget the victims of war and was of the opinion that a widening of the Conventions would limit the scope of action of future belligerents. The League of Nations did not share this view and, later, was to convene a Disarmament Conference which was unproductive.

The origins of the International Relief Union are also described; this was a vast undertaking that was to offer assistance in cases of disasters but which had no opportunity of doing anything in between the two wars. It is nevertheless the source of the new relations that the League of Red Cross Societies and the United Nations are at present in the process of forging in this important field.

It is good that events that are still recent, but which may have become blurred in the memory of most of our contemporaries, should be recalled and analysed. The author does so with clarity and exactitude, and always with the same desirable objectivity.

*J. de 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.<sup>1</sup>

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 role 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;

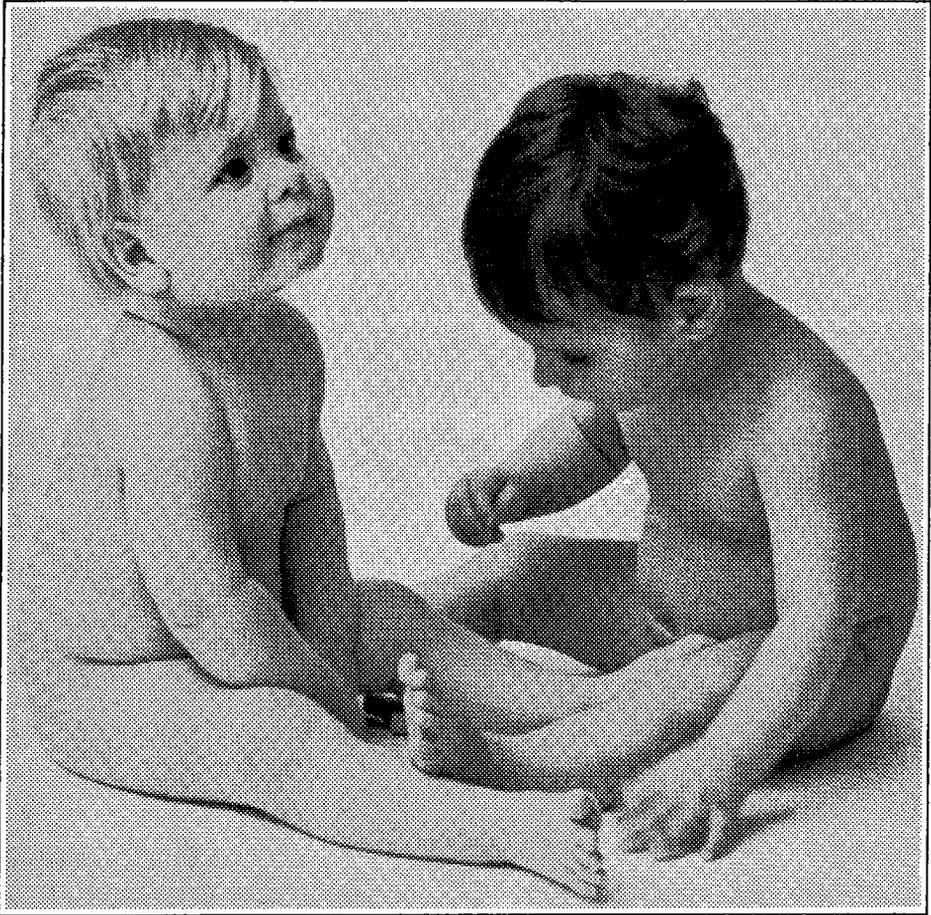
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<sup>1</sup> The International Red Cross comprises the National Red Cross Societies, the International Committee of the Red Cross and the League of Red Cross Societies. The term “ National Red Cross Societies ” includes the Red Crescent Societies and 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 role 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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- ALBANIA — Albanian Red Cross, 35, Rruga e Barrikadavet, *Tirana*.
- ALGERIA — Central Committee of the Algerian Red Crescent Society, 15 bis, Boulevard Mohamed V, *Algiers*.
- 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*.
- BOTSWANA — Botswana Red Cross Society, P.O. Box 485, *Gaborone*.
- BRAZIL — Brazilian Red Cross, Praça da Cruz Vermelha 12 zc/86, *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 324, *Bujumbura*.
- 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 284* (Ontario).
- CEYLON — Ceylon Red Cross, 106 Dharmapala Mawatha, *Colombo VII*.
- CHILE — Chilean Red Cross, Avenida Santa Maria 0150, Correo 21, 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 1110, *Bogota D.E.*
- CONGO — Red Cross of the Congo, 41, Avenue Valcke P.O. Box 1712, *Kinshasa*.
- COSTA RICA — Costa Rican Red Cross, Calle 5a, Apartado 1025, *San José*.
- CUBA — Cuban Red Cross, Calle 23 201 esq. N. Vedado, *Havana*.
- CZECHOSLOVAKIA — Czechoslovak Red Cross, Thunovska 18, *Prague I*.
- DAHOMY — Red Cross Society of Dahomey, P.O. Box 1, *Porto Novo*.
- DENMARK — Danish Red Cross, Ny Vestergade 17, *Copenhagen K*.
- DOMINICAN REPUBLIC — Dominican Red Cross, Calle Juan Enrique Dunant, Ensanche Miraflores, *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<sup>e</sup>)*.
- GERMANY (Dem. Republic) — German Red Cross in the German Democratic Republic, Kaitzerstrasse 2, *Dresden A. 1*.
- GERMANY (Federal Republic) — German Red Cross in the Federal Republic of Germany, Friedrich-Ebert-Allee 71, 5300 *Bonn 1*, Postfach (D.B.R.).
- GHANA — Ghana Red Cross, P.O. Box 835, *Accra*.
- GREAT BRITAIN — British Red Cross, 9 Grosvenor Crescent, *London, S.W.1*.
- GREECE — Hellenic Red Cross, rue Lycavittou 1, *Athens 135*.
- GUATEMALA — Guatemalan Red Cross, 3.<sup>a</sup> Calle 8-40 zona 1, *Guatemala C.A.*
- GUYANA — Guyana Red Cross, P.O. Box 351, Eve Leary, *Georgetown*.
- HAITI — Haiti Red Cross, Place des Nations Unies, B.P. 1337, *Port-au-Prince*.
- HONDURAS — Honduran Red Cross, Calle Henry Dunant 516, *Tegucigalpa*.
- HUNGARY — Hungarian Red Cross, Arany Janos utca 31, *Budapest V*.
- ICELAND — Icelandic Red Cross, Øldugatu 4, Post Box 872, *Reykjavik*.
- INDIA — Indian Red Cross, 1 Red Cross Road *New Delhi 1*.
- INDONESIA — Indonesian Red Cross, Djalal Abdulnui 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*.
- JAMAICA — Jamaica Red Cross Society, 76 Arnold Road, *Kingston 5*.
- JAPAN — Japanese Red Cross, 5 Shiba Park, Minato-Ku, *Tokyo*.
- JORDAN — Jordan National Red Crescent Society, P.O. Box 10 001, *Amman*.
- KENYA — Kenya Red Cross Society, St Johns Gate, P.O. Box 712, *Nairobi*.
- KHMER REPUBLIC — Khmer Red Cross, 17, Vithei Croix-Rouge cambodgienne, P.O.B. 94, *Phnom-Penh*.
- KOREA (Democratic People's Republic) — Red Cross Society of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, *Pyeongyang*.
- KOREA (Republic) — The Republic of Korea National Red Cross, 32-3 Ka Nam San-Donk, *Seoul*.
- KUWAIT — Kuwait Red Crescent Society, P.O. Box 1359, *Kuwait*.
- LAOS — Lao Red Cross, P.B. 650, *Vientiane*.
- LEBANON — Lebanese Red Cross, rue Général Spears, *Beirut*.

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- LIBERIA** — Liberian National Red Cross, National Headquarters, Corner of Tubman boulevard and 9th Street Sinkor, P.O. Box 226, *Monrovia*.
- LIBYAN ARAB REPUBLIC** — Libyan Red Crescent, Berka Omar Mukhtar Street, P.O. Box 541, *Benghazi*.
- LIECHTENSTEIN** — Liechtenstein Red Cross, FL-9490 *Vaduz*.
- LUXEMBOURG** — Luxembourg Red Cross, Parc de la Ville, C.P. 234, *Luxembourg*.
- MADAGASCAR** — Red Cross Society of Madagascar, rue Clemenceau, P.O. Box 1168, *Tananarive*.
- MALAWI** — Malawi Red Cross, Hall Road, Box 247, *Blantyre*.
- MALAYSIA** — Malaysian Red Cross Society, 519 Jalan Belfield, *Kuala Lumpur*.
- MALI** — Mali Red Cross, B.P. 280, route de Koulikora, *Bamako*.
- MEXICO** — Mexican Red Cross, Avenida Ejército Nacional, n° 1032, *Mexico 10, D.F.*
- MONACO** — Red Cross of Monaco, 27 Boul. de Suisse, *Monte-Carlo*.
- MONGOLIA** — Red Cross Society of the Mongolian People's Republic, Central Post Office, Post Box 537, *Ulan Bator*.
- MOROCCO** — Moroccan Red Crescent, rue Benzakour, B.P. 189, *Rabat*.
- NEPAL** — Nepal Red Cross Society, Tripureswar, P.B. 217, *Kathmandu*.
- 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 Noroeste, 305, *Managua, D.N.*
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- SAN MARINO** — San Marino Red Cross, Palais gouvernemental, *San Marino*.
- SAUDI ARABIA** — Saudi Arabian Red Crescent *Riyadh*.
- SENEGAL** — Senegalese Red Cross Society, Bld. Franklin-Roosevelt, P.O.B. 299, *Dakar*.
- SIERRA LEONE** — Sierra Leone Red Cross Society, 6 Liverpool Street, P.O.B. 427, *Freetown*.
- SOMALI REPUBLIC** — Somali Red Crescent Society, P.O. Box. 937, *Mogadiscio*.
- SOUTH AFRICA** — South African Red Cross, Cor. Kruijs & Market Streets, 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, 10440, *Stockholm 14*.
- SWITZERLAND** — Swiss Red Cross, Taubenstrasse, 8, B.P. 2699, 3001 *Berne*.
- SYRIA** — Syrian Red Crescent, Bd Mahdi Ben Barake, *Damascus*.
- TANZANIA** — Tanganyika Red Cross Society, Upanga Road, P.O.B. 1133, *Dar es Salaam*.
- THAILAND** — Thai Red Cross Society, King Chulalongkorn Memorial Hospital, *Bangkok*.
- TOGO** — Togolese Red Cross Society, Avenue des Alliés 19, P.O. Box 655, *Lomé*.
- TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO** — Trinidad and Tobago Red Cross Society, 48 Pembroke Street, P.O. Box 357, *Port of Spain*.
- TUNISIA** — Tunisian Red Crescent, 19, rue d'Angleterre, *Tunis*.
- TURKEY** — Turkish Red Crescent, Yenisehir, *Ankara*.
- UGANDA** — Uganda Red Cross, Nabunya Road, P.O. Box 494, *Kampala*.
- 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 National Red Cross, 17th and D Streets, N.W., *Washington 6 D.C.*
- U.S.S.R.** — Alliance of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, Tcheremushki, J. Tcheremushkinskii proezd 5, *Moscow W-36*.
- VENEZUELA** — Venezuelan Red Cross, Avenida Andrés Bello No. 4, Apart. 3185, *Caracas*.
- VIET NAM (Democratic Republic)** — Red Cross of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, 68, rue Bà-Trìuê, *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*.
- ZAMBIA** — Zambia Red Cross, P.O. Box R. W. 1, Ridgeway, *Lusaka*.