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FIFTH YEAR — N° 51

International Review of the Red Cross



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1965

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INTERNATIONAL REVIEW OF THE RED CROSS

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FRENCH EDITION OF THE REVIEW

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

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SUPPLEMENTS TO THE REVIEW

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SPANISH

Puesta en práctica y difusión de los Convenios de Ginebra. — El XX aniversario de la terminación de la Segunda Guerra Mundial.

GERMAN

Durchführung und Verbreitung der Genfer Abkommen. — Der zwanzigste Jahrestag der Beendigung des Zweiten Weltkrieges.

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The Child — Pillar of the Future

by G. Sicault

In its early years the International Union for Child Welfare co-operated closely with the ICRC. Moreover, the Honorary President of the IUCW, Mrs. A. Morier, has, in a previous issue of our Review, recalled the support which Eglantyne Jebb, the founder of the Save the Children International Union, received from the ICRC in 1920.¹

Since then, the Union has extended internationally and today its membership is drawn from many countries. In September 1964 its General Council met in Athens and the theme discussed was : “ Investment in Child Welfare—an essential factor in economic and social planning ”. On that occasion, Dr. Georges Sicault presented a paper in which he recalled how the “ United Nations Children’s Fund ” (UNICEF) was born, what its activities were and to what extent one can today actively assist the international movement in favour of child welfare. It gives us much pleasure to publish this interesting paper.² (Ed.)

The development of an international policy for children

When, after the Second World War, the General Assembly of the United Nations created the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) it was above all humanitarian factors which prompted the member governments to establish an international organisation for children. Thousands of children who could not make their voices heard had suffered terrible physical and emotional harm through the tragedies of bombardment, separations, dislocation of families, and loss of parents. The main task given to UNICEF was

¹ See *International Review*, May 1963.

² The International Union for Child Welfare published the text of this address in its *International Child Welfare Review*, Geneva, 1964, No. 3, and with kind permission we reproduce it here.

to assist governments in helping those who had suffered or were still suffering and, thanks to the solidarity of the nations, to bring help directly to the children who had been the innocent victims of the disaster.

It was only three years later, following a mission to the developing countries undertaken by a group of scientific and political personalities, that the difficult situation of children in these countries was realised, and that the assistance of UNICEF was orientated towards them. It was well known, of course, that certain illnesses recurred with particular frequency and gravity, that from time to time there was famine or drought, that schooling was insufficient; but it had not yet been realised how pitiful the fate of these children was and how fragile was the hope which could be placed on the human beings born of this unhappy childhood. It was then that the U.N. General Assembly enlarged the task given to UNICEF to include children of the still insufficiently developed countries, and prolonged its existence by giving it a permanent character.

Steps were then taken immediately to combat the most visible enemies, those which affected most directly the health of the child—sickness and hunger. The gift of large quantities of surplus products from the Americas and Europe, particularly dried milk, allowed for extensive distribution to mothers and children. Mass campaigns were undertaken against tuberculosis which, it was feared, as a result of the war, would break out again on a broad scale, and against certain tropical diseases which attacked children in particular: yaws, malaria, leprosy. However, already then, steps were taken in a number of countries to establish the first Maternal and Child Welfare networks to fight against childhood diseases and to prevent all the dangers which threaten mother and child before and during birth, and during the first years of life. This involved, in a sense, the creation of a health defence around the child to try to prevent childhood morbidity and to reduce the mortality rate. Although this work still had a charitable aspect, a spirit of social solidarity and a willingness to integrate the protection of the child into the more general framework of health protection was already born.

This was moreover a necessary condition, if not enough in itself, for the development of those countries which remained under

the menace of these serious endemo-epidemic diseases. It was in this way, subsequent to the international campaign against tuberculosis undertaken in conjunction with the Nordic League of Red Cross Societies, that under the aegis of the World Health Organization the extensive post-war health crusade was born. This crusade was to expand each year, and more particularly so as from 1955 when, after a study by malaria experts, WHO proposed to the UNICEF Executive Board that the latter organization should participate in the eradication of malaria throughout the world. According to the health authorities, malaria represented one of the essential scourges affecting children.

At the same time, the distributions of milk which had attracted the people and permitted the forging of the first rungs of a medical service, were changing in character; they were becoming the basis for health and nutrition education. In most countries, scattered efforts were being undertaken in the field of health and nutrition education in an endeavour to make the population better understand the ills from which they suffered and get them to participate in their own defence. In certain countries, "community development" undertakings were set up by the governments; their aim was to concentrate at strategic points, more particularly in the rural zones, various economic and social measures with a view to obtaining a more effective action through these combined efforts. But the essential characteristic of this 'community development' was the active participation solicited from the people with a view to their own evolution. UNICEF encouraged these initiatives and participated in the efforts undertaken in the framework of health and social work.

Between 1955 and 1961, a new development was to take place within UNICEF. This reorientation was linked with the study of the physical and social environment in which the child lived, and the realisation that it was not enough to fight against hunger and disease; one could not leave out of account the economic and social factors which determined the future of a people and, in particular, one could not neglect the preparation of the child for life.

There could be no question of UNICEF's attacking everywhere and at the same time all the problems of the child, but the idea took root that governments should have the last word in the choice of programmes, and in determining priorities, on condition, of course,

that such selection be founded on a study of the essential needs of the child as they appeared in a given country.

The needs of children

These considerations led UNICEF to undertake, in close liaison with the Specialised Agencies, the United Nations Bureau of Social Affairs, and the governments of more than 30 countries, a vast world-wide enquiry into the problems and needs of children. The broad outline of the situation was familiar; but the pattern and, still more, the essential elements were ill-defined.

This enquiry revealed, in particular, that the child, even more than the adult, was the victim of under-development and that against this background of misery, disease, ignorance, chronic hunger, lack of social protection, lack of preparation for life, the shades varied from one continent to another, from one country to another, for the characteristics of under-development—and their causes—are not always the same. In one country the dominant factor appeared to be disease, in another it was ignorance, in another it was lack of social protection. On this static under-development, the demographic, political and social evolution imposed a dynamic capable of modifying the essential data. First of all, it was apparent that the consequences of demographic expansion were not the same in countries already over-populated as in less densely populated regions. In the first case, the population explosion could result in very grave difficulties, by increasing the number of mouths to feed, by diminishing the per capita income of each inhabitant, and by presenting the State with extraordinary problems when it came to defending the population against sickness, providing education or employment. In the under-populated regions, the economic lag appeared to be linked with the dispersal of the population, the lack of manpower and its bad utilisation. In many regions of the world, the main problem was that of migration of the rural population to the towns; this phenomenon of urbanisation had multiple consequences of which the child again was the principal victim. Whereas the child might sometimes benefit from better care in the towns than in the remote rural areas, his diet remained subject to the variations of a market economy which supplanted his former subsistence economy,

and in a setting characterised by dying traditions. The frequent breaking up of family groups, the failure to adapt to new forms of civilisation, the necessity for the mother to work—all this resulted more or less in the abandonment of the child, or the deterioration of his conditions of life in the social milieu.

On the political side, the creation of new States brought with it the desire on the part of governments to act quickly from the economic and social points of view. Very often the rupture of traditional ties between the colonised and the coloniser resulted in economic disturbances which reacted violently on the purchasing power of the people, and on their way of life. This was a critical phase to be overcome, more or less prolonged according to the natural resources of the country, the political attitude taken by the new governments, and the support received from external sources.

On the economic level, the situation of the child also remained linked indirectly, but very closely, to the general economy of the country, an economy threatened by competition and by the drop in raw materials for export—factors which, in themselves, could nullify all the generous foreign aid.

In this sad picture the miserable plight of the child persisted, and the process of evolution did not seem likely to improve it, at least not in the immediate future. Consequently, these many factors, needs and problems, required individual studies not only at country level but also—at times—at provincial level, in order to define, in the general framework of government policy, the priorities on which to act.

Towards a new policy

It was therefore no longer a question of limiting the field of our assistance to health or nutritional aspects, but, on the contrary, of offering our co-operation to governments to protect the child in all fields, and also—and this was the essential point—to prepare him to play an active and useful role in his village and for his country.

Consequently, in 1961, UNICEF broadened its activities to include two new essential fields of action—education and preparation for active life. But the evolution of UNICEF could not stop there. When the United Nations decided in 1962 to mobilise governments,

particularly those of the developing countries, with a view to speeding up their development—when the Development Decade was initiated—it became evident that the problem was not only one of capital for the construction of bridges, dams, roads or hospitals. The real key was the development of human resources without which the political, economic and social life of the country could not flourish. It was necessary to put people to work, to create cadres in all fields—industry, commerce, administration, health, education, social services, etc.

It fell to UNICEF to assert that this development of human resources could not start in the factory or in the university, but that its foundation stone is the child. It fell to UNICEF to recall that the personality of the child is formed from his earliest years, and therefore it is necessary to prepare him for his role very early. Nothing solid can be created in a country if proper attention is not paid to such problems as the physical, mental and moral growth of the child as an individual, or of children as a whole, as the basis of future generations. Governments must study and get to know their child welfare problems and then ensure, at family, community and national levels, the satisfaction of the essential needs. Finally, long-term, methodical planning is needed, taking children's problems into account.

Planning for children

In April 1964, at a round table conference held in Bellagio, economists, paediatricians and government representatives made recommendations which, founded on these basic truths, should guide the aid which UNICEF can give to the developing countries in the future. The essential recommendations can be summarised by saying that it behoves each government, in the framework of its economic and social policy, to invest considerably on behalf of children, as these investments will prepare the future of the nation as a whole. Of course there is no question of changing the nature of the national plans which co-ordinate the development of the functional services of the country, nor of modifying the different governmental structures; but the accent is placed on the necessity to think about the problem and to create for that purpose, at

national level, a committee of competent people with a broad outlook and capable of elaborating a national policy for children. It is also necessary not to lose sight of Man—in this case the child—when the various experts are concerned each with his own field, whether this be health, education or legislation. The human being is a whole, and it is necessary to co-ordinate the whole range of these techniques for the benefit of mankind. It is necessary to ensure that the child has his place in each sector and that the problems arising in the “no man’s land”, which may exist between different administrations in a country, are studied.

The Conference also recommended that foreign aid, and more specifically bilateral and multilateral aid which represent nearly 90% of the total aid provided to the developing countries, play a much larger part in meeting the problems of children, in close co-operation with the benefiting governments.

As regards the international organizations, the Conference recommended that they study these problems at the root, and that wherever possible pragmatism born of the circumstances and not of an overall view of the problems, should gradually be replaced by methodical planning. This planning should be based on precise study of the conditions prevailing in a given country, and on priorities of action open to the government, taking into account the country’s means, its natural and human resources, and its budget.

Finally, it was recommended that efforts in favour of children should apply to all nations; that governments take advantage of the child’s capacity to understand and assimilate without reservation or prejudice to inculcate in him the sense of solidarity which must exist among men in order to prepare peace for tomorrow.

Thus, at the end of 1964, UNICEF action will be on a very broad basis and its purpose will be to help governments define child problems and prepare solutions.

When one examines the situation of children in the developing countries today, one is struck by the fact that few studies have been made of the overall problems concerning the younger generation. Governments have often established sectoral plans, but without always providing for their co-ordination. An example of this is found in those countries which, wishing to raise the intellectual level of the masses, have given considerable impetus to schooling

without prior consideration of the consequences, i.e. the integration of these young people into the economic and social life of the country. Frequently only a low percentage of them have access either to secondary or technical schools, or to professional training in industry, agriculture or administration. These adolescents find themselves ill-adjusted and out of their element, with neither opportunity nor hope of a future. They feel it is vain to go back to a purely manual job since, in their own minds as in those of their parents, this kind of schooling represented an opening for a better future. It was their chance to escape. And one can imagine the consequences which this unrest of the young mind, to whom all doors are closed, can have for the individual as well as the community.

In many instances, the different technical aspects of the plan are not inter-related and it is rare that a general policy has been outlined in favour of children. Therefore the task which appears to be the most urgent, and without doubt the most necessary, is to emphasize the importance of human resources, beginning with the child. In a development plan this problem must be recognized and studied for the immediate and more distant future, and governments should choose the strategic points at which action should be taken today and tomorrow, having regard to both internal and external resources.

The role of non-governmental organisations

It is within this complex that the role of the Non-Governmental Organisations can already come into play. In fact, to elaborate a child policy for a developing country, it is not only necessary to obtain the services of various administrative departments and experts, each charged with a particular aspect of the policy, but also to benefit from the help of those who wish to devote their voluntary services to the cause of children—those who have undertaken and directed such work, however modest it may be. In effect, it is from this co-ordination of intelligence and goodwill that a coherent and long-term policy for the developing countries can emerge.

This role can be even more important in countries which, having attained their full industrial and economic development, can assist the less favoured countries, since it is essential to educate the public in these countries and to give those with latent and

declared generosity and goodwill a better understanding of the problems. Too often the miserable plight of children in the developing countries is still unknown in Europe. There is a tendency to believe that the problem is not widespread, that it is not true that so many children are hungry. The problem is minimised or not fully appreciated.

It would also be appropriate to improve the concept of “ assistance ” and to replace it by “ co-operation ”. Whatever their political or cultural considerations may be, donor governments cannot expect any gratitude. Their co-operation has to be given without national pride, in a constructive spirit, and with no other ambition than that of being useful to the receiving country.

This means that countries which can give considerable aid to the developing nations should define their policy of co-operation. The task is certainly a difficult one, because it is essential to dissociate such aid from paternalism or economic interests. There is need also to reorientate such aid, which is at present being directed to fields chosen more often by the donor than by the beneficiary. This results in a pragmatism which the passage of time may correct; but it contains all the dangers of a symptomatic therapy which would not necessarily get to the root cause.

It is in this context of co-operation that Non-Governmental Organisations—through the influence they have in their countries, their wide media of public information, and not forgetting the considerable funds they can raise in favour of programmes for children—can take useful action. But it is also in a more direct form, and with the stamp of practical action, that the co-operation of international, national or voluntary child welfare organisations can be employed.

Three fields seem wide open for direct action of this kind. First of all, public health. The setting up of networks of maternal and child health centres, both preventive and curative, in developing countries, necessitates buildings, staff and equipment. The buildings need only be simple, constructed in the villages by the inhabitants themselves. The equipment can be provided by foreign aid; staff can be trained—and it is in this domain that experts sent to these countries can play their most important role. With respect to professional training, these experts can advise and guide in schools in

which para-medical staff are trained. There is no limit to this kind of action, so great are the needs. It is essential, however, that the experts should have the necessary competence and be familiar with the problems.

The same considerations apply to feeding and nutrition programmes, social services, teaching and technical education. The same needs are apparent everywhere: lack of funds, lack of study grants, lack of teaching and training material, lack of qualified teachers and instructors. And here, there is a very wide scope for every kind of initiative, where private aid can be blended harmoniously with aid from the Specialised Agencies of the United Nations (WHO, FAO, UNESCO, ILO, etc.) and governments, whatever form it may take.

Of course, the groundwork has already been done. Already the solidarity of private organisations is being demonstrated from one continent to the next. Such happy initiatives as that of Rädde Barnen and the Freedom from Hunger Campaign (organised with the support of federations of private organisations, now very successful in Great Britain, Germany and Switzerland) are beginning to bear their fruits in most other European countries. But it must be admitted that we are still a long way from satisfying these needs, even if it is sought to limit programmes to the essential strategic points.

Finally there is a field in which Non-Governmental Organizations, at least some of them, could play a considerable part, namely international relations between young people. The General Assembly of the United Nations has passed a resolution inviting governments to promote among young people the ideals of peace, mutual respect and understanding between the nations of the world. Different types of action are currently being studied by UNESCO, and these were the subject of the recent International Youth Conference in Grenoble organised by UNESCO.

The field is thus open to all those who want to enter it. But it must be admitted that voluntary organisations often lack concrete, precise information on the kind of collaboration that is asked of them. Certainly general reports on the living conditions of children in under-developed countries are becoming more numerous; offers of direct help are more rare. It is to remedy this situation that the

United Nations Children's Fund has just taken an initiative which, it is hoped, will bear fruit: namely, the establishment of a catalogue listing projects concerned specifically with aid to children, set out according to country and type of project, with a few words about each one, showing what is needed and what priority the government is giving to it. In this list, it is hoped that each voluntary organisation will find opportunities for concrete action in relation with its own objectives and enabling it to use its own methods of work.

Pitfalls to be avoided

There are, of course, delicate problems to be solved, the most important of which is the national pride of the receiving countries which must be respected at all costs. Each government wants to remain master in its own country—this is quite natural—and choose its sources of co-operation in the light of its policy. Cultural ideological currents exist against which, with the best will in the world, one cannot do anything; there are political situations which have to be respected; there are choices determined by sentiment and without which relationships between peoples and individuals wither to nought.

We must also put an end to those vague and good intentions which are never followed by action, which always raise hope and often bring disappointment. We should not undertake too much to start with and should be careful not to export those "white elephants", as our African friends call them, which tend more to emphasise the wealth of the donor than to satisfy the essential needs of the receiver. It is no good thinking that it is possible to transplant new techniques from the economically developed countries to the African bush without considerable adaptation. We must also avoid giving authoritative advice which is not followed by any practical action. . . An old French proverb, full of the wisdom of the people, reminds us that "It is not the counsellor who pays". . . The visiting card should not be too obvious on the gift. . . Everyone, everywhere, likes to receive presents, but "The way of giving is more important than the present given", as the proverb says. . . With the resources available, in money, material and personnel, action must be directed towards strategic points where it is hoped

to start a chain reaction. External co-operation should act as a ferment, as a catalyst or, to borrow another comparison, in the placid waters of under-development, foreign aid should provoke an infinite series of ever-widening ripples.

Finally, co-ordination appears indispensable. It must reign at the time programmes are prepared and order their implementation in the field. Rivalry and duplication, when so many evils have to be overcome and so many problems solved, are a useless wastage and discredit foreign aid.

Thus, and in conclusion, in a world which technology tends to stifle, mankind must be liberated. Technology should be mobilized in the service of mankind and, above all, it should be realised that development need not always have as its aim the production of oil, kilowatts or cars, but improved living conditions for the peoples of the world, for whom technology, mastered and controlled, should provide greater opportunities than in previous centuries.

International solidarity

What is needed then is the creation throughout the world of that mutual understanding which inspires solidarity; and this should start already now, among the younger generation who will lead the world of tomorrow. Egoism should take fright when faced with the reactions of those wretched peoples to whom the hope of a better future might be denied. Thus will spread this key idea—perhaps the most important of the century—namely: that the development of the economically backward regions of the world is a joint undertaking in which all should play their part, and that this development should have as its object man himself. To reach these objectives, the human resources of each country must be developed. Thus, man becomes both the end and the necessary means of this development. It is by fighting disease, misery and ignorance, and by developing talents, skills and professional qualifications, that the effort to raise the standard of living of peoples should begin. The injection of capital may be necessary, but it is never enough in itself. It is often indispensable to send experts—but the future would be a closed door if each country were not in a position to train its own qualified personnel.

From all this one has to draw the inescapable logical conclusion. . . . The enhancement of man must begin at the beginning; that is, with the protection and training of the child. Without that, there is no salvation. To justify this statement, it is not even necessary to stress the scientific work of the last 50 years which has shown the importance of life before and during the first years after birth, in the physical and mental development of the child and of his personality. Simple common sense dictates that the foundations on which man builds his life and his activities within the community and the country must not be neglected.

If the 18th century was among those which gave humanism its clearest expression, if the 19th saw the general abolition of slavery, it seems already that the 20th century will be marked by the effort towards solidarity between the nations of the world with a view to guaranteeing the full development of man in peace. We are of course still only at the beginning of this new era. But beyond and above narrow egoisms, this call for solidarity finds a wide echo.

And this duty which the richer nations have, to help the poorer countries, takes on an even more imperative character when children are concerned. But it is certain that for this it will be necessary to overcome the more or less concealed resistances and, by a wide movement of opinion, persuade the public, the élite and governments of the necessity for considerably increasing their participation in this effort.

Moreover, it also seems necessary to convince public opinion of the necessity, in the child's interest, of a policy for children in every country. . . .

The role of Non-Governmental Organizations is thus extended to its maximum dimensions, since they will be able to participate as much in this policy for children as in the actual implementation of concrete programmes, enabling the less favoured countries to benefit from their technical and material resources.

Dr G. SICAUT,
Director, European Office, UNICEF

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

EXTERNAL ACTIVITIES

Yemen

The International Review already mentioned last month that the ICRC has decided to prolong its medical activity at the Uqhd Hospital, as well as through its mobile medical teams.¹ This activity continues to be considerable and the brief information given below, covering a period of several weeks, gives sufficient proof of this :

During the first fortnight of April, as a result of the departure of pilgrims to Mecca the number of patients at the Uqhd hospital declined from 50 to 44. During the same period, the polyclinic treated 792 cases of which 215 were new.

The Uqhd field hospital weekly statistics showed for the week ending May 1, 66 admissions to hospital, 44 of them being war wounded.

The daily average consultations at the polyclinic amounted to 130.

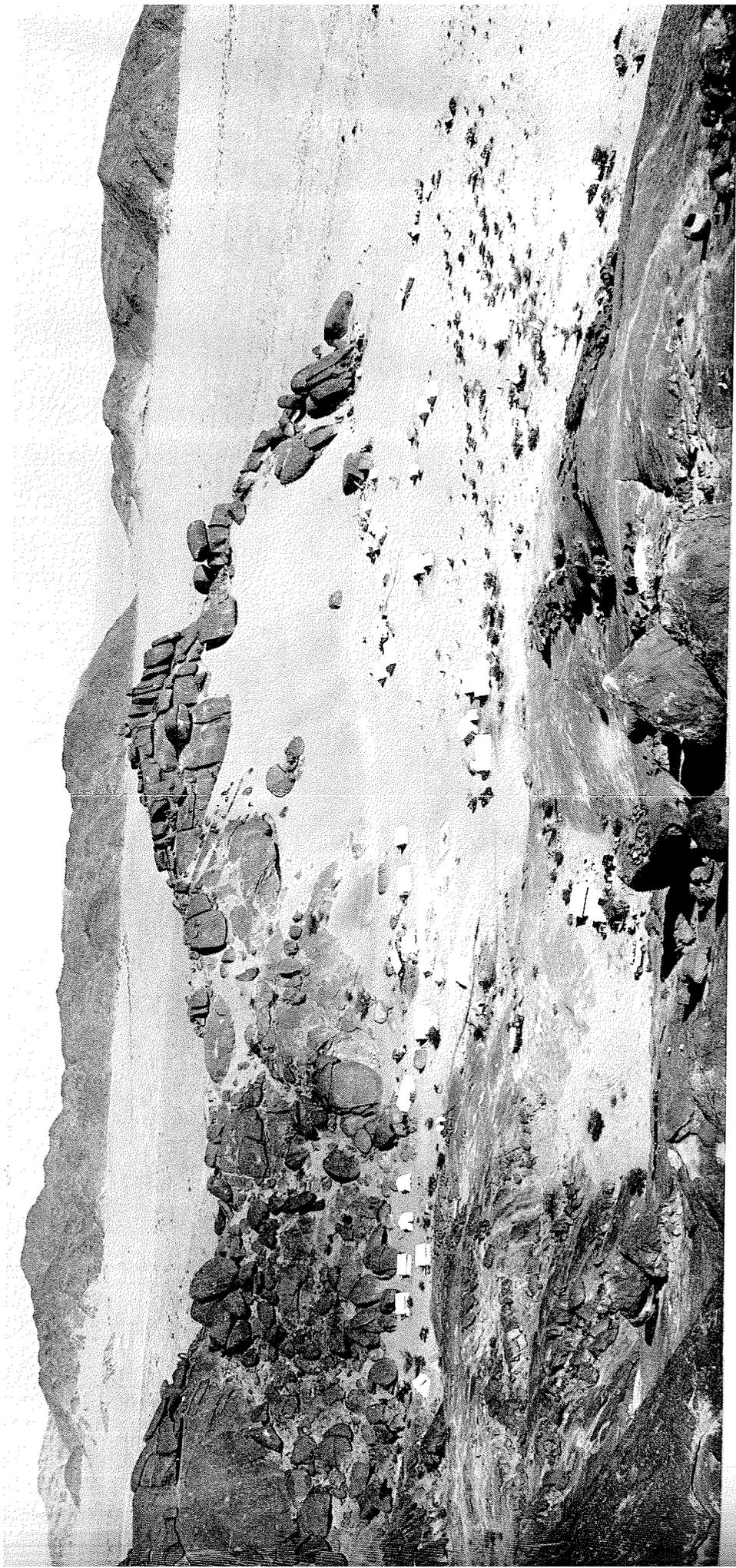
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Dr. Giovanni Bass, ICRC doctor delegate, accompanied by male nurse Ernst Zuberbühler, carried out a medical mission in the Jauf region from April 5 to 9.

The two men visited 20 Egyptian prisoners of war detained at Hajlah to whom they handed clothing, medicaments, foodstuffs and mail. They medically inspected not only the prisoners but also a number of Yemeni, before proceeding on their way to Oquaba, Boa and El Changer where they treated some local inhabitants and detainees. They then returned via Hajlah to their base at Uqhd.

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¹ *Plate* : General view of the Uqhd Hospital.



General view of the ICRC hospital at Ughd in the Yemeni desert.

The Head of the International Committee of the Red Cross mission to the Yemen, Mr. André Rochat, has just visited the Sheikdom of Bahrein (an archipelago in the Persian gulf), where he was officially received by the Sovereign, Sheik Khalifah bin Sulman al Khalifah. He explained to His Highness the ICRC's main activities in the Middle East, particularly in the Yemen. The Prince expressed his lively interest in the work of the Red Cross in Arab countries and by way of encouragement decided to make a special financial contribution.

On the invitation of the Sheik, Mr. Rochat visited government hospitals and also the hospital at the prison where persons wounded during recent riots in Bahrein were undergoing treatment.

*

A few days after his appointment, Mr. Hussein al Majdami, Minister of Health of the Yemen Arab Republic, convened the delegates of the ICRC in Sanaa, with whom he desired to make personal contact.

Discussions centered on the various ICRC activities in the Yemen, notably assistance to Yemeni war disabled who have been fitted with artificial limbs under the terms of an agreement between the ICRC and the Red Crescent Society of the UAR. More than half of those scheduled to benefit from this scheme have already been in hospital in Cairo for the fitting of artificial limbs. A further group of disabled is about to leave for the Egyptian capital.

The Minister personally thanked the ICRC on behalf of the Yemeni population for its relief in the form of food which it has continuously been giving since the beginning of hostilities.

In addition, the ICRC mobile teams in the Yemen Republic are still visiting regions where medical requirements are sometimes considerable and where inhabitants have often not seen a doctor for months or even years.

The ICRC delegates informed the Minister of the forthcoming arrival of a fresh team under Dr. H. Steiner, to replace Dr. Peter Möhr's team. It will work for several days among the Beni Ma'tar tribe at Hada and will then go to Damahr, south-south-east of Sanaa. As in previous actions the less serious cases will be treated

on the spot and the patients with more severe illnesses will be taken to hospital in Sanaa.

The Minister of Health thanked the ICRC delegation for its dedication to its task and gave his assurance of support for the continuation of the ICRC mission.

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“ There is an immense need of medical supplies in the Yemen ” wrote an ICRC delegate. The situation seems particularly acute in the Medressa el Aitam school for orphans, where the ICRC has been distributing powdered milk for over a year. The well equipped infirmary is efficiently operated by an intelligent and dedicated young Yemeni ; however, it is almost completely lacking in the supplies it needs to care for the children in the school.

The shortage of medical supplies is also being felt at the Republican hospital in Sanaa. The ICRC has been requested to help by those in charge.

*

In the month of March alone, the ICRC distributed 900 kilos of milk to hospitals, schools and dispensaries in Sanaa.

*

On April 20 1965, Mr. Marcel Boisard, ICRC delegate, went to the El Kalaa Prison (citadel of Sanaa) where he delivered correspondence to prisoners, who handed him mail for distribution to their families.

On April 27, he visited the El Rahda prison, also at Sanaa. There are 65 political prisoners held here, all of Yemeni nationality. The delegate handed medical supplies of prime necessity to the infirmary.

The present head of the Uqhd hospital is Dr. Ulrich Midden-dorp ; he had already been at Uqhd at the end of 1963 and beginning of 1964 together with his wife, who is also a doctor and who is again working with him.

Mr. Rainer Siegenthaler has been appointed surgeon in charge of the second medical team in Sanaa; he left Switzerland on May 19.

Following the training course at the ICRC headquarters in Geneva, last March, two new delegates, Mr. Armand Josi and Mr. Hubert Bettin, have just enlisted under the ICRC standard. The former is stationed in Jeddah in Saudi Arabia, while the second is in the eastern sector in the interior of the Yemen.

*

From the above, it can be seen that the ICRC continues to intervene on the Royalist as well as on the Republican side. Relevant figures were drawn up at the end of April, 1965. These refer to the ICRC's medical action in North Yemen since 1963, as follows :

A. Personnel

Since November 19, 1963, 7 medical teams each consisting of some thirty persons (doctors, technicians, drivers, etc.) have followed each other.

The present total personnel at the Ughd Hospital amounts to 20, all of whom are Swiss nationals.

B. Medical activity in the Royalist zone

Number of patients hospitalized : 1,148

Average occupation of hospital :

— 110 to 130 patients in first few months.

— at present approx. 60 patients

*Number of consultations at hospital's polyclinic : 44,500
(i.e. about 13,000 persons)*

Number of consultations given by mobile teams : 10,200

*Approximate total of consultations : 54,700
(i.e. about 16,600 persons)*

Number of surgical operations carried out in the Clinobox : 1,299

C. Medical activity in the Republican zone

*Number of consultations given by the medical team at
Sanaa : 920*

D. Costs of action

*Total expenses at the Uqhd Hospital : 2,700,000 Sw.fr.s.
(equipment and working charges)*

General Mission and Delegation at Jeddah : . 900,000 ,,

Donations received to date : 1,500,000 ,,

Viet Nam

After an interruption of nearly 6 years, the ICRC was able, in February 1964, to resume its visits to Vietnamese prisoners held by the authorities of the Republic of Viet Nam (South) as a result of the conflict. This action, undertaken jointly with the National Red Cross at Saigon, also enabled distributions of relief to be made.

At the same time, the Central Tracing Agency of the ICRC in Geneva received several enquiries concerning foreign nationals, chiefly American citizens, missing in South Viet Nam since 1962 and the International Committee intervened with the National Front of Liberation of South Viet Nam with a view to tracing them. The NFL delegates with whom the ICRC communicated in Algiers and Prague have not, however, so far been in a position to reply to these requests. On the other hand, the NFL in its publications and broadcasts has confirmed the capture of several Americans.

Having learnt that the NFL had agreed in early 1964 to prisoners' receiving parcels and being able to exchange news with their families through the intermediary of the Cambodian Red Cross, the ICRC sent parcels and mail which it had received to that National Society. These consignments were duly handed over on February 12, 1965, to the secretariat of the NFL delegation to the Indochinese People's Conference at Phnom-Penh. Distribution was to be made by the "Red Cross of Liberation of South Viet Nam".

Meanwhile, one of the American pilots whose aircraft had been shot down during the bombing raids in North Viet Nam in August 1964 was taken prisoner by the forces of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam. At the family's request, the ICRC made contact with the Red Cross of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam at Hanoi which undertook to transmit family messages and parcels to the prisoners. The Central Tracing Agency has also transmitted mail from the families of American airmen captured at the beginning of 1965.

Laos

On the occasion of the Laotian New Year which took place from April 16 to 19, Mr. Jürg Baer, delegate of the ICRC, together with leading personalities of the Laotian Red Cross, visited various hospitals.

400 sick and wounded then benefited from relief, consisting of food and mosquito nets, to which the ICRC contributed.

Japan

The 123rd and 124th vessels transporting Koreans wishing to leave Japan to go places of their choosing in their country of origin, left the port of Niigata respectively on March 27 with 191 persons on board and on April 23 with 192.

The total number of persons repatriated under the auspices of the Japanese Red Cross, in the presence of ICRC delegates, since the start of operations in December 1959, has now reached 83,117.

Congo

Mr. G. C. Senn, ICRC delegate, visited the Central Stanleyville prison on April 6 ; 747 detainees, mostly political, were held there.

On April 16, he went to the Central Prison at Paulis (133 detainees).

At the N'Dolo prison, the ICRC delegation, with the help of the Red Cross of the Congo, organized a weekly distribution of foodstuffs to prisoners from Angola.

The president of the ICRC in Pakistan and India

In the course of his visit to the Far East, Mr. Samuel A. Gonard, President of the International Committee, accompanied by Mr. Jean-Pierre Maunoir, delegate, stopped for a few days in Pakistan, where he was joined by Mr. André Durand, general delegate for the Far East. On May 5, the members of the ICRC mission were received in Karachi by the Executive Chairman of the Pakistan Red Cross, Syed Wajid Ali Shah and by members of the Central Committee and on May 7, they were received in Lahore by the Begum Vigar-un-Nisa Noon, Chairman of the western branch of this National Society. The mission studied the activities undertaken by the Pakistan Red Cross and visited a number of relief institutions. On May 6, the President of the ICRC and the members of the delegation were received in audience by the head of the State, Marshal Ayub Khan. The limited time at their disposal, to their regret, did not allow them to visit the eastern branch of the National Red Cross Society.

The ICRC mission left for New Delhi on May 8, where it was received by General C. K. Lakshmanan, Secretary-General of the Indian Red Cross and by leading members of the National Society. Mr. Gonard was received on May 10 by the President of the Indian Republic, Mr. Radhakrishnan and on the same day had a discussion with Mrs. Lakshmi Menon, Minister for Foreign Affairs. He also visited the central office of the National Red Cross and that of the Red Cross for the Delhi district. He also met a group of the Junior Red Cross and was shown a number of Indian Red Cross activities.

In both countries President Gonard and the delegation were received with warm welcome ; they were able to establish and renew useful contacts with the leaders of the Red Cross Societies

and with official circles in an atmosphere of mutual confidence. The ICRC President left New Delhi on May 12 for Bangkok.

We will be returning in our next number to this journey which has continued via Manila to Tokyo, where the delegation is at the time of our going to press.

Santo Domingo

The General Delegate of the ICRC for Latin America, Mr. Pierre Jequier, left on May 11, 1965 for Santo Domingo. He was entrusted with giving help to the Dominican Red Cross, which had requested the ICRC's aid in view of the numerous tasks imposed upon it by the present events.

On his arrival in the island, he made contact with those in charge of the National Society as well as with the leaders of the two opposing forces. He was received by General Imbert Barreras, head of the Government Junta, who gave him assurances as regards the application of the Geneva Conventions and also authorized him to visit all detainees arrested for political reasons.

Mr. Jequier also met Colonel Francisco Caamano, head of the Constitutional Junta. The ICRC delegate attempted to obtain from both sides the conclusion of a truce to enable the wounded to be evacuated. This proposal was accepted after numerous discussions and a humanitarian truce took place on May 21. It enabled the Dominican Red Cross to intervene by collecting the wounded, picking up corpses and partly evacuating overcrowded hospitals which it supplied with medicaments and food.

On May 27, an assistant delegate of the ICRC, Mr. Serge Nessi, left Geneva. He has been charged with seconding Mr. Jequier in his mission.

*IN GENEVA***Tribute to the ICRC**

The World Veterans Federation, which held its XIth General Assembly in Lausanne, from May 1-6, wished to express to the International Committee of the Red Cross its gratitude for the immense work accomplished on behalf of the victims of two world wars and other conflicts.

In the course of a ceremony which took place on May 3 at the headquarters of the International Committee of the Red Cross in the presence of members of the Committee and more than 250 veterans, Mr. W. Ch. J. M. Van Lanschot, President of the World Veterans Federation (WVF), presented to Mr. Jacques Freymond, Vice-President of the ICRC, a bronze plate "as a token of gratitude" from veterans of fifty-one countries¹.

Then, the members of the Executive Bureau and the delegates of the World Veterans Federation visited the Central Tracing Agency and saw a film on the history and work of the ICRC.

At the ceremony, Mr. Van Lanschot and Mr. Freymond gave the following addresses :

Mr. Van Lanschot :

"The Eleventh General Assembly of the World Veterans Federation is being held in Switzerland to enable us to join in the celebration of International Cooperation Year and, on the Twentieth Anniversary of the Founding of the United Nations, to pay tribute to that organization which we believe constitutes the focal point of man's struggle for a world of peace and freedom.

Neither our visit to Switzerland nor our recognition of achievement in the field of international cooperation would, however, be complete if we did not on this occasion also give expression to our gratitude to the International Committee of the Red Cross. The common interests and objectives of our two

¹ *Plate* : Mr. Van Lanschot presents a bronze plate as a token of gratitude to the ICRC ; Mr J. Freymond extends thanks.

On behalf of the World Veterans Federation, of which he is President, Mr. Van Lanschot presents a testimony of recognition to the ICRC...



IN GENEVA

...and is thanked by Mr. J. Freymond, Vice-President of the ICRC

Photos J. Zbinden



organizations have produced a close and valued collaboration, and have enabled us in the WVF to understand and appreciate the many, fundamental contributions made by the Red Cross in support of humanitarianism and cooperation throughout the world.

We are honored to have with us today the distinguished representatives of the League of Red Cross Societies. In many countries, the member associations of the WVF enjoy productive relationships with the National Red Cross Societies, and we are grateful for the League's success in making the ideals of the Red Cross effective through international, national and local organizations and programs.

The millions of veterans and war victims who make up the World Veterans Federation claim a special competence in evaluating the significance of the ideas which underlie the Red Cross and the work which results from those ideas. In war, we have had intimate knowledge of the humanitarian services carried out under your famous symbol, and many of us here today will never forget the hope, the comfort, the preservation of life itself which has come to us as a result.

We have given in our own work special attention to the Geneva Conventions, which are at the heart of the Red Cross idea. During the 101 years since the signature of the first of these international agreements, a new humanitarian element has found its place in the realm of conflict. To the extent the Conventions have been observed, suffering has been reduced, compassion and reason have been given opportunity to work even in the midst of the tragedy and the unreason of war. For more than a century there has been an increasingly universal respect for the principles set forth in the Conventions. As we seek to promote the further development of international agreement and integrity as necessary bases for peace, we regard the Geneva Conventions as essential evidence that success is possible; they exist, they are realistic, they are when applied, effective. It is certain, therefore, that the history of these inspired examples of international cooperation, and their future impact, are among mankind's greatest successes in its quest for peace.

Today, as we strive together to give voice to the forces of reason and progress, we rejoice in the persistent confluence of ideas and action as carried out by the Red Cross and the WVF. Whether we speak of the propagation of the principles embodied in the Geneva Conventions, of the protection of the rights of prisoners of war and other deported or detained persons, of the rehabilitation of the disabled, of improved respect for human rights in general, of economic and social development in general—we are speaking of ideas and of actions which are basic components of the work of the Red Cross and of the WVF—we are speaking of ideas and actions which are basic components of peace and of human freedom.

The World Veterans Federation is, compared to the Red Cross, a young organization. This year, we will celebrate our fifteenth anniversary ; whereas the Red Cross spans more than a century. We know, however, that the inspiration which has motivated our membership in this generation has its roots in the experience of the veterans and the victims of all wars. I am confident, therefore, that we speak not only for ourselves, but also for all men and women of goodwill who, having experienced the horror and suffering of war, pay homage to those who work for peace. We speak for those who, having seen the torment of a world plagued by tyrannical concepts which deny the value of the individual, are resolved to strive relentlessly for the protection of human rights, and who give thanks to all who join in this effort.

For these reasons, we will be honored if on the occasion of our Eleventh General Assembly, you will accept this plaque. In grateful remembrance of what you have done, with faith in what the future contributions of your great movement will be, we say with all the sincerity those words can contain, " In Gratitude " ."

Mr. Freymond :

On behalf of the International Committee of the Red Cross, I would first and foremost like to express our institution's gratitude. The tribute paid to us today by the World Veterans

Federation and its twenty million members is a pleasure and an honour for us.

Many are the veterans of the two world wars, and of numerous other conflicts, whose names are contained in the records of the Central Tracing Agency, in the lists of the wounded and the sick, and of victims of all sorts. For all of them, the Red Cross has endeavoured to alleviate their suffering. We would have liked to do much more. There were many men whose suffering we were unable to relieve and many perished for want of that protection which in spite of all our efforts we were unable to grant them in view of the modest resources available. When conflicts break out our action in the midst of unleashed fury too often meets obstacles which are more political and psychological than material.

Your presence here today, along with other testimony, and the thoughts which you have been kind enough to express, justify our belief that in spite of this accumulation of difficulties the Red Cross has not failed in its mission during times of distress. And, when I say the Red Cross, I do not mean only the International Committee, but also the League and the National Societies of many countries.

You rightly said, Mr. President, last year, on the occasion of the commemoration of the Centenary of the First Geneva Convention, that "no one is better placed than the veterans to testify to the genuine and profound significance of the Geneva Conventions and the efforts of the Red Cross to prevent and relieve suffering". That is why the testimony of their gratitude which you bring us today moves us most deeply.

In a number of fields where the Red Cross carries out its works of relief, the World Veterans Federation, from its very early days, has co-operated with us to seek practical means of implementing joint humanitarian action, whether connected with humanitarian law, the tracing of missing persons or the bringing of aid to certain categories of war's victims. In all circumstances, you have shown that in principles and action on behalf of mankind, you are akin to us, and that you work for an ideal which in many ways is parallel to our own. Like you, we realize that "it is more than ever necessary to act

intelligently, creatively and practically in order to strengthen the principles of international co-operation and to give new impetus to the progress of humanity towards a world in which peace, liberty and justice are the universal objective ”.

This sentence, taken from a report to the eleventh General Meeting of the World Veterans Federation seems to me perfectly to express the spirit which animates us all here.

The International Committee has the permanent mission of maintaining the spirit of the Red Cross on the international level and even more of bringing relief to victims throughout the world wherever they may be. We are pleased to know that you are at our side and that you are ready to support the action undertaken by the International Committee of the Red Cross as a modest neutral intermediary. At the present time of awesome industrial and scientific development, when everything seems concerted to lead humanity to a new world, where man is in danger of becoming no more than a mere number lost in the multitude, without individual personality, in the midst of increasing anarchy, it is comforting to know that the veterans of the whole world, together with the 188 million human beings of the Red Cross movement, are resolved to remain faithful to the principles which guide us and to make their beneficial influence effective.

Your support is essential to us. We are profoundly grateful for it.

Training course on the Geneva Conventions

On April 28, 1965, the International Committee of the Red Cross received at its headquarters a group of some fifty Swiss Army officers headed by Brigadier Jean Schindler ; they came to take part in an introductory course on the Geneva Conventions, organized with the assistance of the ICRC.

After being welcomed by Mr. Gonard, President of the ICRC and a former Swiss Army Corps Commander, the officers heard a number of lectures in German and in French on the Institution's activities in time of war. This was followed by a visit to the Central Tracing Agency.

This was the first time the Swiss Army has organized such a course on the Geneva Conventions.

A fresh series of colour slides on the Geneva Conventions

The ICRC has just published a new series of slides on the Geneva Conventions of August 12, 1949. The series consists of thirty pictures illustrating the main rules and prohibitions laid down in these Conventions to which practically every country in the world has adhered. The illustrations were taken from original paintings by an artist well known to the Geneva public, Edouard Elzingre.

These slides are intended for members of the armed forces and also for youth and they are accompanied by explanatory comments in French, English, German or Spanish.

**TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
END OF THE SECOND WORLD WAR**

The twentieth anniversary of the end of hostilities in 1945 gave the Red Cross a welcome opportunity to recall the activities undertaken under its flag to allay sufferings caused by the greatest cataclysm which has yet affected the human race. The International Committee of the Red Cross which is called upon to assume heavy responsibilities in case of war wishes to put on record here some aspects of its action as neutral intermediary in favour of all the victims of the world conflict.

In war-time the basic activities of the Red Cross are carried out first and foremost by National Societies, working on the front or behind the lines, wherever hostilities cause human sufferings. The ICRC functions as a channel or as a bridge. It is often the last remaining intermediary through which relief can be sent and is the only way for people to correspond.

In the struggle against the distress and suffering caused by the hostilities and their consequences, the ICRC obtained remarkable results, with the assistance of its many collaborators, who numbered almost 4000 at the end of the war. Of course, there were failures. But the International Committee of the Red Cross had only very limited means at its disposal. Also it had to face all too often the lack of understanding by belligerents. Nevertheless, the International Committee tried repeatedly to do all it could to fulfil its mission and to satisfy the expectations of the innumerable victims of the war for whom it was the only remaining hope.

The following figures will help to illustrate the scope of its activities :

- The ICRC conveyed to camps for war prisoners, civilian internees and deportees
430,731 tons of relief supplies to a total value of about
3,312,000,000 Swiss francs, or approximately 36 million parcels.
- Civilian detainees and concentration camp inmates received
6,836 tons of relief supplies (about 1,631,000 parcels)

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

- Relief to war prisoners in Japanese hands which amounted to 7,000 tons of relief and 19 million Swiss francs in cash for local purchases, is not included in the above figures.
- Thanks to the Joint Relief Commission of the International Red Cross (ICRC—League of Red Cross Societies), the Red Cross was able to assist civilian populations suffering from the war ; 165,256 tons of relief supplies (total value 314 million Swiss francs) were distributed to them.
- The ICRC had at its disposal 43 ships (of which 3 were its own) ; they made 507 sea crossings, covering a distance of nearly one million miles. After the destruction of the German railway system, the ICRC used 474 lorries which covered a total of nearly two million miles.

During the war and the months which followed the end of the hostilities, the ICRC was represented in various parts of the world by 76 delegations. Their personnel of 340 made 11,175 visits to prisoner camps.

All these activities involved a great deal of office work, as shown by the following figures, covering the period between September 30, 1939 to June 30, 1947 :

Mail items received and despatched	120,669,000
Telegrams received and despatched	567,251
Total index-cards	36,000,000
Official lists of prisoners of war (pages registered) . .	3,565,869
Civilian messages forwarded	24,000,000
Photostat copies made	3,719,914
Camp visits	11,175

IN THE RED CROSS WORLD

Africa : A Wide Field of Action for the Red Cross

The Red Cross movement, which has now entered its second century of existence, is passing through a most intensive period of transition and development such as the world has not seen in so short a time, with the exception of the first few years following the foundation of Europe itself.

In every sphere, the African continent which is in full development, is of great topical interest. This also applies to the Red Cross. There particularly striking figures in fact show how much progress it has made in a few years. Whilst in 1948 there were only three Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in existence on that continent, today there are twenty-two recognized on the international level with a further dozen which have been founded more recently or are in the process of foundation. This demonstrates the important position held by the Red Cross in Africa where both possibilities and needs are immense and where it is evident that its aid as the traditional auxiliary of the public Powers is indispensable to its populations¹.

It is not difficult to imagine all the problems which can be raised for the leaders of a newly formed National Society in a country of any continent which has recently become independent, lacking in resources and qualified personnel, where multiple tasks have to be carried out by a small number of people of good will, the immensity of the work to be accomplished with the scant resources available, not counting obstacles which can be encountered through hereditary beliefs, the vast distances and also rudimentary means of communication.

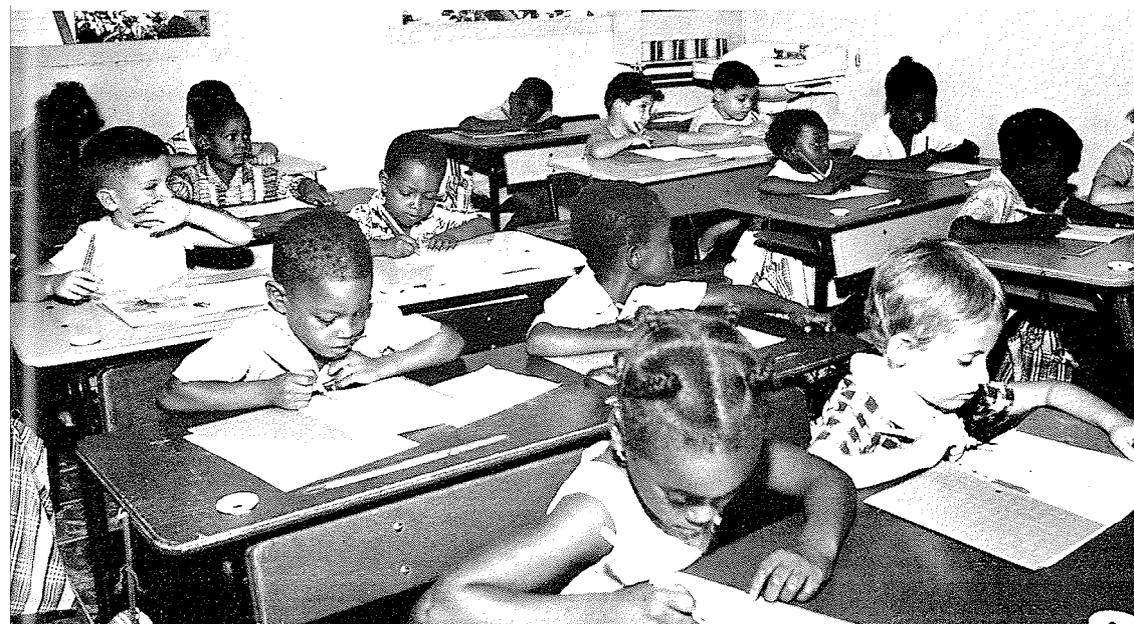
¹ *Plate* : Some activities of National Red Cross Societies in the Ivory Coast, Sierra Leone, Dahomey, Nigeria, Upper Volta.



Mr. Denise, Minister of State, leaving the Palace of the National Assembly at Abidjan where he has been presiding over the opening session of the Red Cross Seminar (on his left, Mr. Beer, Secretary-General of the League)

IVORY COAST

Red Cross Centre in Abidjan: an infant class





Upper Volta Red Cross: Exercise in first-aid

Sierra Leone Red Cross: Publicity for blood donation in the streets of Freetown





Nigerian Red Cross: A lesson in the clinic for paraplegic children



Red Cross of Dahomey: Distribution of relief to the sick in the Porto-Novo hospital

The Red Cross had to deal with innumerable problems relatively new to it, to interest old-established Societies for them to come to the aid of their younger members in so far as they were able to do so and to draw up realistic plans of action, taking the most pressing needs into account. It was with these ends in view that in 1961, at the XXVIth session of the Board of Governors of the League held in Prague, a technical assistance body was set up, financed mainly by voluntary contributions from member Societies. This was to be called the Red Cross Development Programme, a designation which might at first sight appear somewhat ambitious but which is not at all so, when one considers the work to be undertaken in spite of the extremely limited means at its disposal.

Of what does the help which has to be given to the new National Societies consist ? Their new leaders have to be given advice, they have to be guided for a certain period in their various tasks, aided in organizing the Society and in its technical services, encourage and subsequently develop activities which are of greatest use to the population by making available to them specialists, funds and equipment. The experience acquired by the older Societies can also be of great service, taking into account the essential adaptation involved.

It is only on very rare occasions that the leaders of recently formed National Societies meet each other, exchange their new experiences or discuss their difficulties in order to discover common solutions by specifying the best methods to be pursued. Such meetings are of great value and consequently the League of Red Cross Societies has in the past few years organized a certain number of regional meetings and seminars in Latin America or for South-East Asia and the Pacific.¹ It was therefore with the same aim in view that the idea of holding an African Seminar took shape, the first international meeting ever to be held by the Red Cross on that continent.

Why was Abidjan, capital of the Ivory Coast, chosen to be the site of this work ? One can reply without hesitation that the

¹ The *International Review* has published several articles on this subject, viz., by Mr. K. Seevaratnam on the South-East Asia and Pacific Red Cross Forum (September 1964 issue) and by Mr. J. Gómez Ruíz on regional meetings which recently took place in Peru and Chile (in its April 1965 number). (Ed.)

IN THE RED CROSS WORLD

very position of that town, placed as it is on the western seaboard of Africa, made it the ideal setting for a meeting between some fifteen National Societies from the western part of the continent. To this should be added the helpful support given by the Ivory Coast authorities, the friendly co-operation of the Junior Red Cross of the Ivory Coast and its leading members, of whom particular mention should be made of its President, Mr. A. Barou and Mrs. M. Basque, Secretary-General, as well as the numerous facilities which can be found in a capital such as Abidjan.

The opening ceremony took place on February 27, 1965 presided over by Mr. Auguste Denise, Minister of State of the Republic of the Ivory Coast at which were present a large number of ministers, senior officials, members of the Diplomatic Corps, participants in the Seminar as well as the leaders and members of the Ivory Coast Red Cross¹. After stating how pleased he was to see Abidjan chosen for the first meetings of the Red Cross ever to be held in Africa, the Minister of State on behalf of the Government felt that "public tribute should be paid to the fine work done by the Red Cross since it had been created so long ago by Henry Dunant, for it had in fact been the first to consider and place before the conscience of nations a kind of law of international humanisation and fellowship which were beyond the sovereignty of States. Since then, the world had seen his ideas progressively outdistancing individuals and frontiers to become universal.

Certainly, one cannot say that these have advanced with the speed and vigour which Dunant would have wished, but it is no less true to say that his humanitarian programme remains the catalyzing element of the world today, if it wants to continue to survive."

From February 27 to March 3, some thirty leaders of 13 National Societies² thus came together beside several members of the League Secretariat under its Secretary-General, Mr. Henrik Beer, several of its delegates working in Africa and with observers of the International Committee of the Red Cross and of National

¹ *Plate* : Mr. Denise, accompanied by Mr. Beer, leaving the National Assembly after the inaugural session of the Abidjan seminar.

² Cameroon, Congo (Léopoldville), Dahomey, Gambia, Ghana, Ivory Coast, Liberia, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Togo, Upper Volta.

Societies such as the British and French Red Cross. For a week most of the principal subjects of interest to the Red Cross were discussed in the spacious Palace of the National Assembly, flying the flags of the Red Cross, the Red Crescent and the Red Lion and Sun and the countries represented. Each delegate was able to talk at length and describe life in his own country, the many urgent needs, for example, in the field of public health. Realistic and sometimes heated points were raised following speeches made by the leaders of the National Societies or by those responsible for technical services. "It will be a long time before we can estimate the effects of the Abidjan Seminar", said the League's Secretary-General several days after its closing session, "however, we are aware of all the energy employed to cut a path for the Red Cross in Africa although we cannot yet see where this path will lead us."

*

Having had the privilege of taking part in the Red Cross Seminar at Abidjan, I would like to try to recapture the attractive atmosphere in which the work took place. Imagine the large semi-circle of a national assembly with seats rising in tiers in which Red Cross representatives sat instead of parliamentarians, stifling heat outside, yet cool inside the air-conditioned assembly room and it only needed a short space of time amongst all those people who were mostly unknown to each other, talking in either English or French, who were meeting for the first time in a country which the majority had never visited before, for a general atmosphere of confidence and sincerity to be created. Any observer would have been struck, as I was, by the earnestness and the way in which all genuinely participated in the debates. One really gained the impression that all present, as time went on, became aware of the significance of the Red Cross, of its possibilities and also the problems it has to face. Did they previously know exactly what the International Red Cross was, the different characteristics of the International Committee of the Red Cross and the League, or the contents of the protective articles of the Geneva Conventions? Personally, I do not think so, especially as this was admitted by a number of delegates during the course of that week in Abidjan.

IN THE RED CROSS WORLD

This awareness was not only restricted to the leaders of the African Red Cross Societies, since, for their part, the representatives of the League and the ICRC heard language which would perhaps not have been expressed at a more important, a more international conference. Were we ourselves aware, before Abidjan, of the realities and problems which have to be faced daily by the leaders of the Red Cross in that part of the world? When they spoke, each one in such a different manner, Presidents, Secretary-Generals, those responsible for various activities in the National Societies, one could realise the vastness of their countries, the diversity of populations, the extremely scant resources available to them in relation to the tasks to be accomplished in so many fields and in particular in that of health, which by itself is so immense.

One or two questions of major importance were daily on the agenda and one of the participants was charged with presenting the subject. After he had spoken, views were exchanged between the various delegates conducted by the chairman of the meeting whose office was taken over each day by the President or Head of a different National Society's delegation. This procedure certainly contributed to enlivening the debates, aroused greater interest and held the attention of the auditorium.

Mention should now be made of the agenda itself which one must admit was fairly full since, in the space of a week, a very wide range of subjects which serious study of the Red Cross entails, had to be discussed such as, the role of the Red Cross in Africa, possibilities for the Red Cross in Africa, principles to be put into practice, medical education, first-aid, the care of mother and child, the Junior Red Cross, financial appeals and recruitment, publicity and information, etc.

Some extracts of the discussions will suffice to give an impression of the tone of what was said, to bring out the novelty of some of the subjects broached and the wide horizons opened up for the whole of the Red Cross.

To the question: "Are the fundamental Red Cross principles easily accepted in Africa?", Mr. A. Mamboulou, Secretary-General of the Red Cross of the Congo, gave the following reply: "They are unknown to the population and not understood". Of the main

problems impeding the Red Cross idea amongst the people one should quote "the lack of preparation of the population for benevolent or voluntary work... the low standard of living of the average African... primitive housing conditions..." It is the family taken in the widest sense of the word, which gives stability to man by the cohesion and solidarity which exist in it and the force of habit. By economic transformations and migrations this notion has been disrupted from several sides. One should, therefore, through the Red Cross and its spirit, try to compensate this lack of stability which engenders fear and makes people think again of evil spirits and other malefactions." "For the African the clan remains the foundation of his existence..." "Those concerned with Red Cross publicity can profit from this spirit of mutual aid which animates the members of a clan by inculcating in them that fellowship which ought to unite men for the establishment of a better world..." "What we do know is the life of the clan, of the tribe... and this leads me to say that it will be easier for us to make the Red Cross known in villages rather than in towns, since in small communities, leisure and collective events are devised by the village for the village."

The same subject was also brought out by the Secretary-General of the Nigerian Red Cross, Mallam Saïdy Z. Mohammed who, amongst other things, defined the channels by which the Red Cross could make itself known to the largest number of people: "In rural areas, family ties, the immense prestige enjoyed by the chief, the importance of the teacher and of his school, oblige one to conform to certain rules of precedence when first making contact with the population, both adults and children. Whilst the school represents the channel through which it is essential to pass to make known the Red Cross in the community, it can be very quickly seen that the approval of the chief and of his immediate entourage is necessary for the population's turning in favour of the Red Cross idea. The chief still holds a preponderant position in his village and, as he is legally and morally responsible for the well-being of the population, he is the more often prepared to adopt any idea capable of being able to improve its conditions."

It is not possible in a brief space to quote all that was said during the sessions and all speakers, naturally, according to their

own centres of interest, referred to the best ways open to the Red Cross, expressing themselves with realism and conviction, showed their enthusiasm for their task and their desire for co-operation between the African Societies and the two international Red Cross institutions.

We should also mention three other meetings of a rather special nature which took place during the Abidjan Seminar. A symposium with the title "Partners of the future" consisted of representatives of inter-governmental organizations in operation in Africa, such as UNTAB, WHO, UNESCO, FAO and UNICEF, as well as those of Catholic Relief Societies and the Oecumenical Council of Churches, and others. From the various views expressed many points in common were revealed, showing the similarity of problems presenting themselves on the African continent to those organizations as well as to the Red Cross. Such an initiative can be considered as being the basis for even closer co-operation than hitherto.

Several information experts, wireless technicians or members of the press belonging to government information services followed the Seminar's working sessions devoted to those fields. The object sought was that these should bring practical ideas and suggestions for better use to be made by the Red Cross of the considerable channels available today in order to make it better known to the public.

There is however a long way to go before such a stage is reached in those vast countries in the process of development in which the Red Cross will first of all and no doubt for a long time to come have to ensure reaching rural populations through town criers and the chiefs of villages.

Finally, one evening was reserved for the International Committee of the Red Cross. An important and an extremely animated debate between the representatives of that institution and the delegates of the African Red Cross Societies showed the importance which the latter attach to the rôle played until now by the International Committee in Africa—on account of the events which took place in several countries in that part of the world following on their becoming independent. Several speakers mentioned the necessity of putting the Geneva Conventions within real reach of the masses.

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Whilst the delegates present at Abidjan expressed on a number of occasions their need for assistance in the organization of National Societies and in the training of personnel, they also emphasized how they were all well aware of the fact that, finally, the principal responsibility for the development of their respective Societies lay with themselves. As the Secretary-General of the League of Red Cross Societies wrote: "It is encouraging to see the existence of such a state of mind without which aid coming from outside could never be judiciously used and would even be in vain." Mr. Henrik Beer continued, "It will be a formidable and thrilling undertaking to seek ways of not disappointing all these hopes."

It would moreover be unfair not to mention, at least by enumerating them, the principal activities which the National African Societies have been attempting to undertake since their founding, traditional Red Cross activities common to all continents and all countries: medical education, courses in home care, first-aid, recruitment of blood donors, various activities, such as emergency relief to the population, welfare in hospitals, ambulance services, etc...

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On the African continent, where immense tasks have to be accomplished, on the humanitarian level as well as in other spheres, the Red Cross must work as a pioneer since it has to encourage men of good will, train personnel, define its rôle in everything which is of greatest use for the immediate future and alone accomplish things where nothing has previously existed. The government authorities have, for their part, understood the importance of Red Cross work for their populations and have facilitated the establishment of National Societies and helped them in their early stages.

These are favourable conditions for enduring work, since the rôle offered to the Red Cross in Africa is indeed immense, as is also the desire for action on the part of the National Societies of that continent and of their leaders for whom to prepare for the future is, first of all, to be today at the service of all.

MARC GAZAY

Director of Information,
League of Red Cross Societies.

MAY 8th

As in previous years, World Red Cross Day in 1965 was celebrated on May 8th. On the occasion of this 137th anniversary of Henry Dunant's birth — which was also the 20th anniversary of the cessation of the Second World War — the press and radio recalled the work of the Red Cross and the memory of the movement's founder, whilst the National Red Cross, Red Crescent and Red Lion and Sun Societies, for their part, decided to mark the event by various celebrations, some of which we mention below.

In *Switzerland*, teachers were invited by the Swiss Junior Red Cross to devote time in their lessons on May 8th to the subject of the Red Cross. The Swiss Juniors undertook a campaign to collect books with which to form school libraries in the mountain villages.

In *Canada*, the National Society organized a speech contest open to high school students, the subject being this year's Red Cross Day theme. The two prize winners — one English and one French speaking — will be given a two week holiday in Geneva including visits to the International Red Cross institutions in that town.

In the *Congo*, youth education, the subject for the first year (1965) of the Juniors' Five Year Plan, was the theme for a speech and drawing competition on the occasion of World Red Cross Day.

The *Dahomey* Red Cross launched a large-scale publicity campaign, with the accent on the organization of a Junior Red Cross branch. On May 8th a procession of children paraded through the streets of Cotonou, the capital.

In *Indonesia*, teachers agreed to explain on that day the humanitarian principles and their importance in the world today.

In *Ireland* the Juniors undertook a drive for funds to increase their country's contribution to the F.A.O.'s "Freedom from Hunger Campaign" in the form of a model village and experimental farm which Ireland has started in Tanzania for 250 families.

In the Republic of *Korea* the Junior Red Cross decided to be foster parent for orphans, as its action for World Red Cross Day.

In *Nigeria* the Juniors chose health education as the field in which they would commemorate Henry Dunant's birth, by posting up notices on the principles of hygiene, by cleaning schools, streets, reception centres, etc.

In *Tanzania*, the day was devoted to a recruiting campaign.

The whole country was bedecked with Red Cross flags and the commemorative programme included processions, first-aid demonstrations, and the award of certificates to blood donors and the most active members of the Junior Red Cross.

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Red Cross Day, which this year was devoted to youth, had as its theme — as already mentioned in a recent issue of the *International Review* — “Red Cross Youth: To-morrow’s Strength To-day”. It is worth mentioning that on this occasion Dr. M. G. Candau, Director General of the World Health Organization, in a message which we reproduce below, paid tribute to the humanitarian work being accomplished day after day under the three emblems of our movement :

On the occasion of World Red Cross Day, I have great pleasure in addressing the 68 million young people who serve the ideal of the Junior Red Cross and in a great movement of solidarity further its noble aims: “Protection of Health and Life, Service and International Friendship”.

These millions of young people are the advance guard of a peaceful army. They should be fully aware of the responsibilities falling upon them.

The World Health Organization attaches great importance to health education, the first theme of action of the new Junior Red Cross Programme. It sees in it an essential means of ensuring wider understanding of public health measures.

To prepare for a healthy future is the great task awaiting the rising generation. It therefore has to fight against illness. Malaria, a disease representing the heaviest financial burden for the world, must be eradicated just like yaws with its terrible mutilations. Smallpox should be eliminated from the list of great scourges and also tuberculosis, poliomyelitis, cancer and cardiovascular diseases. The Junior Red Cross can here play a vital preventive rôle, thus contributing essential support in the difficult fight for health, which in the words of the Constitution of our Organization is a “state of complete physical, mental and social wellbeing . . .”

In addition and for the sixteenth year in succession, an important international radio broadcast by the Red Cross took place on

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the evening of May 8th. In the course of this programme, broadcast under the auspices of the International Committee, the League, the European Broadcasting Union, and the International Radio and Television Organization, listeners were able to hear, by "multiplex" a series of calls from 22 stations in Europe, America and Africa.

The programme was then split up among several wave-lengths. The French broadcast was a "flash-back" arranged for broadcasting through Radio-Genève by Mr. Georges Hardy and was transmitted by the Swiss, French, Belgian, Canadian, Radio-Luxembourg and Radio-Monte-Carlo networks. A joint German language broadcast was transmitted by the Federal Republic of Germany, Austria and the German-speaking part of Switzerland; the Democratic Republic of Germany had its own programme. An Italian language broadcast was transmitted from the radio networks of the Tessin, Italy and the Vatican. A special broadcast was prepared by the Swiss Short Wave Service for English and Spanish listeners.

Other countries broadcast their own national programmes based on material supplied by Geneva.

Thus, again this year, numerous countries illustrated the unity and universality of the Red Cross by their programmes on the air, either direct or relayed.

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In conclusion we would mention that a brief ceremony took place on the morning of May 8th before the Henry Dunant monument in the Parc des Bastions, Geneva. Many Red Cross officials attended, representing the ICRC, the League and the Swiss Red Cross.

Wreaths were laid on the monument; as a reminder that World Red Cross Day was this year devoted to youth, the first was laid by two Junior groups of the Geneva branch of the Swiss Red Cross Society. The second wreath was a joint offering by the League, the ICRC and the Swiss National Society; the third was laid by the Chargé d'Affaires of the Norwegian Permanent Mission to Geneva on behalf of the Norwegian Red Cross which is this year celebrating the centenary of its foundation.

Once again the World Red Cross, Red Crescent and Red Lion and Sun Day aroused wide interest and was celebrated in a worthy manner enabling many countries to pay tribute to the memory of Henry Dunant.

Vienna will receive the XXth International Conference of the Red Cross

On October 2, 1965, delegates of States signatory to the Geneva Conventions and of the National Societies will be meeting for the work of the XXth International Conference of the Red Cross in the Hofburg, the old Imperial Palace.

A mediaeval fortress, flanked by massive towers, the Palace underwent considerable transformation during the Renaissance. In 1526 a library was added to the existing building as well as rooms to house scientific and art collections. In 1723, the old library was rebuilt. Of imposing dimensions it was dominated by a central projecting wing. The interior was decorated in an ornamental style and on the shelves can be found most valuable works such as Prince Eugene's famous book collection.

Another wing, the "Michaelertrakt" was built in 1893. It forms by itself a majestic whole with elegant curves and is surmounted by cupolas. Between 1881 and 1913, the last block of buildings was added by the architect Sauper. The statue of Prince Eugene is in front of the concave façade. The sessions of the XXth International Conference of the Red Cross will take place in this wing. The opening ceremony will be in the Festival Hall in the presence of the President of the Austrian Republic. The Ceremonial Hall and the apartments, skilfully transformed to conform to modern requirements, will be the place of meeting of the various commissions. They have been provided with the most up-to-date installations and numerous rooms will be placed at the disposal of the technical services and the press. Reception rooms will be on the ground floor.

We would recall that 150 years ago the Congress of Vienna was held in the Imperial Palace and in 1897 the capital welcomed an International Conference of the Red Cross, the sixth, which will now be described.¹

¹ We herewith reproduce translated passages of an article which appeared in the review *Das Rote Kreuz*, Vol. I - 1965, edited by the Austrian Red Cross.

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During the Paris Universal Exhibition of 1867, the National Red Cross Societies met for the first time, in accordance with the Resolution which had been adopted in Geneva in 1864. The Second International Conference was held in Berlin in September 1869 in which representatives of States signatory to the Geneva Convention took part. Already at that time Vienna was proposed as the place for the next Conference. However, various circumstances prevented the realisation of this project. The IIIrd Conference took place in Geneva, the IVth in Karlsruhe and the Vth in Rome in 1892.

In January 1896, the International Committee of the Red Cross sent a letter to the Austrian Red Cross Society, proposing to convene the Conference for the following year in Vienna, a proposal which was favourably received.

At the beginning of June, invitations were sent out both from Geneva and Vienna to the Central Committees of the National Societies. Out of respect for the many women's welfare associations then existing in Austria, women were also invited for the first time to the Conference.

The VIth International Conference of the Red Cross opened on September 19, 1897 at midday in the Great Festival Hall of the University. The Emperor was represented by Archduke Ludwig Viktor, patron and representative of the Red Cross and by Count Badeni.

The International Committee of the Red Cross had delegated its Vice-President, Gustave Ador, who was accompanied by four delegates. Nineteen European States were represented by 61 delegates. Of the five non-European States, Argentina, the Congo and Siam were each represented by one delegate, Japan sent three and the United States of America five. The President of the American Red Cross, Clara Barton, headed her delegation.

The Orders of Chivalry sent six delegates. Austria was represented by no less than 98 delegates, 78 of whom belonged to welfare societies of the various countries of the Empire.

On that same Sunday, there was a gala performance at the Opera of the "Bartered Bride" and of the "Viennese Waltz" ballet. The following day the Conference began its work.

The meetings were interspersed with a number of events and receptions. On Wednesday afternoon after the plenary session,

the delegates had dinner at the Prater park at which the Mayor of Vienna spoke. "After a session lasting several hours", according to the minutes of the Conference, "the guests of honour all proceeded to "Venice in Vienna" where the giant wheel, in particular, aroused the keenest interest."

On Thursday morning a visit was made to the first Viennese Society of public kitchens, followed by a reception in the afternoon at the Town Hall of Vienna.

The guests visited the city's art collections. They then went to the Great Festival Hall for a collation at which Clara Barton made an entrance on the Mayor's arm. In the evening, the Archduke Ludwig Viktor received the participants at the Hofburg in the Secret Council Chamber and in the Marble Hall. A buffet-supper had been prepared in the Hall of Knights.

On September 24, the Conference met for its closing session. Amongst others, a resolution was adopted by which the National Red Cross Societies were to intervene with their respective governments, for the latter to conclude a Convention relative to naval warfare. Other resolutions dealt with the storage of medical equipment, with activities in time of peace and the aid which National Societies should give each other. Similarly, it was recommended that misuse of the protective emblem, which the Red Cross represents, should be avoided, the States having promulgated the necessary ordinances to that end.

GERMANY

This is our first opportunity to mention a special and original side of the German Red Cross in the Federal Republic of Germany, that is to say, the annual meeting called "Justitiartagung" which, since 1957, has been attended by the legal advisers to the National Society's "Länder" sections. These counsellors and voluntary workers, judges, lawyers, and legal consultants thus meet once a year alternately in the North and South of Germany to discuss problems of mutual interest at meetings lasting from three to four days

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under the chairmanship of Mr. W. von Starck, President of the Red Cross of Schleswig-Holstein.

The work of these meetings, which in general consists of lectures followed by group discussions, does not only concern internal legal problems, for on several occasions the organizers have had the excellent idea of including papers on humanitarian law in general. The 1960 meeting, for example, considered the topic "Guerilla Warfare and International Law"; that of 1963 considered "The Legal Position and Tasks of the Red Cross in the event of armed conflict, with special reference to work in enemy occupied territory". Last year, one of the staff members of the ICRC, Mr. R.-J. Wilhelm, Adviser in the Legal Department, was invited to discourse on "Development of Humanitarian Law prior to the XXth International Conference of the Red Cross".

As an illustration of these meetings, we might give an idea of the 1964 "Justitiartagung" which was held in Kiel from September 4 to 6; it was attended by some hundred participants including the President of the German Red Cross in the Federal Republic of Germany, Mr. Ritter von Lex, and the heads of the Central Secretariat, Mr. Schloegel and Mr. Ritgen.

Two aspects of internal law were on the agenda; they showed both the interest of these meetings of legal consultants and the types of problem which were discussed and which might also confront National Societies in other countries.

One of these two topics, *The Legal Aspect of Welfare Work incumbent on the German Red Cross* was dealt with in a paper by Dr. H. P. Mehl, Director of the Red Cross College of Social Studies¹. As a result of federal legislation on social services, there are a number of problems in this field confronting the Red Cross, for it is no longer a question of providing assisted persons with subsistence; they are entitled to a degree of well-being appropriate to the development of their personality.

This was the subject of a lively debate concerning the connection between voluntary social welfare organizations and public institutions working in the same field. The group appointed to

¹ We would recall that the *International Review*, in December 1964, published an article summarizing the gist of a monograph by Mr. H. P. Mehl, which appeared in the review *Deutsches Rotes Kreuz*.

examine the question noted that under the relevant national legislation the activity of private associations in this sphere, such as the German Red Cross, was closely linked to the activity of the government welfare services. The group considered it necessary to avoid making an issue of prerogatives as this would merely have undermined mutual confidence, whereas the main objective was to achieve smooth co-operation between the private and the public sectors, for the welfare of people in need. Consequently, the German Red Cross should examine closely what tasks its resources in finance and personnel enable it effectively to undertake in the field of social welfare.

The second exposition on internal law concerned *Arbitration within the German Red Cross*. Dr. Walther Bergmann, Chairman of the German Red Cross Arbitration Tribunal, dealt at length with the reasons for which arbitration tribunals within the Society have been set up and he described the experience of these tribunals. Their task is to settle, by arbitration, any disputes arising among the regional sections or between members and sections in respect of a whole series of issues.

Although the group appointed to consider this question proposed several amendments to the regulations governing the Society's arbitration procedure, it was definitely in favour of maintaining arbitration. It considered that this procedure ensured the settlement within the Society of disputes which would no doubt weaken its prestige if they were brought to the notice of the public; such settlements were also quicker and cheaper than recourse to ordinary courts.

The third subject, as we have already mentioned, was *The Development of Humanitarian Law prior to the XXth International Conference of the Red Cross*. In his introduction, the speaker, Mr. Wilhelm, stressed how the Red Cross, unlike many other relief institutions, had always endeavoured to have the main aspects of its development sanctioned by international law. After having stressed the importance of disseminating the 1949 Geneva Conventions, the speaker dealt with problems to be submitted to the XXth International Conference and which reflect the development of humanitarian law; he first described, from a socio-juridical

point of view, present conditions in the international community within which this development should come about. In particular he raised four points: the extension of the international community, the "crisis" in the law of nations, the resurgence of the idea of a just war linked to aggression, and the physical limits to the application of humanitarian law as a result of developments in waging war. Whatever obstacles these circumstances at present comprise, they do not constitute a reason to abstain from humanitarian law; quite the contrary, efforts must be doubled.

With respect to the questions affecting such development, to be raised at the XXth Conference, Mr. Wilhelm placed them in two categories: on the one hand, the protection of civilian populations against the effects of hostilities — a field calling for a declaration of principles confirming the respect due to non-combatants and for regulations which would facilitate the work of civil defence organizations — and, on the other hand, questions relating to "internal conflicts" — particularly the observance of indispensable humanitarian principles and the strengthening of guarantees in favour of civilian medical personnel carrying out their mission in such conflicts.

The speaker concluded by saying: "During the Centenary of the Red Cross much was said of its past achievements. But the present situation with regard to the development of humanitarian law might be compared to that which confronted the founders of the Red Cross for several months prior to the success of their undertaking. Although they were fully determined, these men did not then know whether they would be successful or if their efforts would founder. At that time it was the courageous and enlightened support given by citizens of a number of countries and several ruling sovereigns, some of them of German nationality, which helped the promoters of the Red Cross to overcome all difficulties.

Let us hope that efforts being made for the development of humanitarian law will be given like support by the National Societies and governments".

Several points in this exposition were thoroughly discussed by the working group under the chairmanship of Dr. F. Wendl of the Austrian Red Cross. With respect to socio-juridical conditions affecting future developments, the group felt that in general the

“ crisis ” in the law of nations should not be allowed to impede efforts to develop humanitarian law and that the application of humanitarian law should not be prevented by the designations which States give to armed conflicts. It also recognized that the use of weapons of mass destruction considerably increased the danger of reaching that limit beyond which it would no longer be possible to apply humanitarian law.

Of the questions to be submitted to the XXth International Conference, the working group gave particular attention to those referring to the protection of civilian populations. It again asserted its interest for the standards to be submitted by the ICRC to the XXth International Conference of the Red Cross and expressed the hope that work in this field would be continued. It also took a lively interest in the drawing up of draft regulations on the status of civil defence personnel.

The meeting was concluded by a remarkable talk by Dr. H. Schlegelberger, Minister of the Interior of Schleswig-Holstein, on the organization of civil defence in the German Federal Republic. This aroused the more attention, as the changes at present being introduced into this organization have induced the German Red Cross to reconsider how it might the most effectively participate in civil defence whilst retaining at least the essential minimum degree of autonomy.

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

AN AFTERMATH OF WATERLOO

A hundred and fifty years ago this month the battle of Waterloo took place. Although it involved less bloodshed than that of Solferino, it was none the less one of the most important of large-scale battles, both historically and from the point of view of the size of the armies engaged.

On the occasion of this anniversary, the Netherlands Red Cross recalls the outstanding humanitarian S. J. Brugmans in the following article which it has authorized us to publish :

On 18th June, 1815, the battle of Waterloo was fought between a French army under the command of the Emperor Napoleon and a British-German force under the Duke of Wellington¹. The outcome is known : the French were defeated and the First Empire was over.

Thousands of dead and wounded were scattered all over the miles of battlefield. The dead were left to the scavengers—even the dead horses were robbed of their iron shoes—the wounded transported to the neighbouring towns, villages and hamlets. The capital Brussels was flooded with them. Ten churches and public buildings were turned into emergency hospitals and even the courtyards and corridors were used to deposit the wounded. Like the civilians in the neighbourhood of Solferino—about half a century later—the Bruxellois looked after the enemy wounded, as well as those of the allied forces. It proved desirable though, to separate the wounded of both armies—who at first had been put into hospital beds at random—as frequent slanging-matches were not considered beneficial to the orderly management of a hospital.

It is obvious that in a city crowded with wounded and where the number of qualified nursing staff is insufficient, epidemics may

¹ The word "German" is used here collectively for the armies of the many independent German States of those days.

break out at any moment. Due to the efficiency and foresight of the Inspector-General of the Military Medical Service of the Netherlands Army, Sebald Justinus Brugmans, such an outbreak was avoided.

Brugmans was born at Franeker in the Netherlands province of Friesland and took his doctor's degree as "Artium liberalium magister et Philosophiae doctor". He then studied medicine and qualified "cum laude" in 1785. His thesis was "De Puogenia" (the origin of pus). In the same year he was appointed to the Chair of Physics, Astronomy, Logic and Metaphysics; in the following year he became Professor of Botany at Leyden. In 1791 he moved from the Faculty of Philosophy to that of Medicine, which was extended in 1795 to cover Chemistry. He was much intrigued by the connection between chemistry and medicine. We need not dwell on his many lectures, studies and publications on a great variety of subjects; suffice to say that Brugmans was a very learned man, a universal genius.

When in 1794 Holland became the refuge of the retreating English and Hanoverian armies, Professor Brugmans—assisted by doctors and medical students of the Leyden University—organized an emergency hospital outside the town's fortifications and he repeated this in 1799 (landing of a mixed English/Russian force North of what is now IJmuiden) and in 1809 (bombardment of Flushing by the British navy).

In 1795 he was appointed Head of the Military Medical Service of the newly created Batavian Republic. Louis Napoleon, later King of Holland, and his famous brother, the Emperor Napoleon, were much impressed by his profound learning and allowed him to follow his own methods instead of the French ones. Napoleon promoted him to the seventh Inspector-General of "la Grande Armée", but left him at his post as permanent rector of Leyden University, the only one in the Netherlands, and part of the Imperial University in Paris.

His most valuable legacy to all wounded soldiers—in fact to all wounded men—up to this very day, is his discovery and treatment of gangrene, in 1813.

Napoleon's defeat after his Russian campaign caused Brugmans to be pushed somewhat to the background, but the first King of

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the Netherlands, William, restored this eminent scholar to his former functions and added to his task as Inspector-General of the Military Service the supervision of the Navy and the Colonies, of the Military Veterinary Service, and of sanitary conditions in prisons and quarantine stations. All these appointments he fulfilled with zeal and effectiveness until the 22nd of July 1819, when he died after a short illness.

The Kingdom of Holland in those days had raised an army of 25,000 men. History has shown at Quatre Bras (where the Prince of Orange with his small force prevented the French from advancing upon Brussels) that it was a good army, though small. Inspector-General Sebald Justinus Brugman saw that it was fitted out with up-to-date ambulances and a sufficient number of medical officers and that the hospitals were adequately staffed.

The forces in the field were well supplied. Every corps had its contingent of surgeons and ambulances in a state of readiness. Pack-horses carried emergency bandages for the wounded immediately before they were transported to the hospitals in the first, second or third lines. In this way 8,000 wounded could have been dealt with.

These extensive measures, taken in the first place on behalf of the expected wounded of the Netherlands army, proved of immeasurable value, for besides the Netherlands cases, there were also those of the Prussian, Brunswick, Hanoverian and Nassau forces to be looked after and also a great number of Frenchmen.

Brugmans, the man who had identified the cause of the dreaded gangrene, knew too well the risk of an epidemic when a great number of wounded were massed in a short time in locations where trained hospital staff was scarce and knowledge of how to cure severe cases was lacking. Wherever possible, he had tents erected on the glacis of the town and in open squares, in order that there should be sufficient fresh air and a suitable distance between the beds. He urged the citizens of Brussels to take the wounded into their houses and place a placard before their windows stating how many men had been taken in. The town's doctors then would call and dress the wounds, leaving instructions and bandages for further treatment. Extensive instructions as to how to clean and dress the wounds were given in writing and also

indications regarding food and drink. Stress was laid upon the utmost cleanliness.

By these and other instructions—which were conscientiously followed by the citizens—Brugmans was able to avert a terrible epidemic and further the recovery of the multitude of wounded.

A very good precaution was the distribution of the wounded over a number of towns and villages whereby great accumulations of men were avoided.

The English Government had its own wounded and wounded prisoners evacuated as soon as possible via Antwerp and Ostend.

A tragic but necessary task was fulfilled too : the burial of the dead, which was carried out by the local population under supervision of the mayors. Thanks to practical measures taken and recommended by Sebald Justinus Brugmans, the battlefields were cleared in a relatively short time and no epidemic ensued.

TRIBUTE TO THE RED CROSS

During the fifth plenary session of the eighteenth World Health Assembly in Geneva in May 1965, the President, Dr. V. V. Olguin, recalled the significance of World Red Cross Day and paid tribute to our movement in the following terms :

. . . I would like to take the opportunity at our meeting today to pay tribute to the achievements of the Red Cross, an institution whose admirable work is familiar to all of us. The World Health Organization, as all of us are aware, maintains close connection with the International Committee of the Red Cross and with the League of Red Cross Societies, and I would not let this Red Cross Day go by without having once again placed on record the satisfaction and pride which we take in this valuable and useful co-operation. As it is customary to extend good wishes on the occasion of an anniversary, I am sure I am faithfully interpreting the feelings of all of you when I express our earnest hopes that the Red Cross will carry on its noble work with the same success as it has always achieved hitherto.

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The President then gave the floor to Mr. N. Abut, Assistant Secretary-General of the League of Red Cross Societies, who expressed thanks on behalf of the institution as a whole :

It is a great honour but also a difficult task to express in a few words, in the name of the Red Cross, its delight and genuine emotion in listening to the message of esteem and confidence which the World Health Assembly has been kind enough to convey to us through its eminent President.

Like the League, the International Committee of the Red Cross and the one hundred and four National Red Cross, Red Crescent and Red Lion and Sun Societies are highly appreciative of this message. Therein they will find valuable encouragement. In their name and ours, I ask you to accept the expression of our gratitude.

It is a hundred years since the founder of the Red Cross movement, Henry Dunant, wrote : " Our wish is to see the work of general hygiene become widespread and to help the propagation of personal hygiene ; we desire that the causes of physical ills be sought ever more diligently so that they may be remedied. "

The wording has perhaps been changed since then, but the idea remains the same. It is this objective towards which the efforts of the Red Cross have been directed as far as its limited resources allowed. That is why the work of the World Health Organization, with its well known strength, experience and methodology is of inestimable value to us ; that is why, also, the Red Cross is proud to co-operate wholeheartedly in your efforts, just as it is pleased to be able to count on your support. To this joint work, Mr. President, you have been kind enough today to bear fresh witness. In the name of our entire movement I express our gratitude.

BOOKS AND REVIEWS

The Red Cross World — *League of Red Cross Societies, Geneva, 1964, No. 4.*

The XXVIth Session of the League Board of Governors invited National Societies to approach the governmental authorities and especially the Postal Administration of their countries to obtain issues of postage stamps which would mark the Centenary of the Foundation of the Red Cross on a vast scale and in a permanent form.

This appeal was widely heard: 136 States and Territories issued 435 commemorative postage stamps and blocks, each with the Red Cross, Red Crescent or Red Lion and Sun emblem. Many appeared in 1963 but some were only put into circulation this year. Never before has there been such a large number of issues of so many postage stamps in honour of the Red Cross Movement. In 1959, on the occasion of the Centenary of the Birth of the Red Cross Idea on the Battlefield of Solferino, 27 States issued some eighty postage stamps in a single year, which was a record for Red Cross philately at the time.

In fact, the Red Cross comes very close to the stamp record for a specific world event, at present held by the FAO with 137 issues marking its Freedom from Hunger Campaign.

The number and variety of issues show the interest which Governments take in the Red Cross, at both the national and international levels. The complete collection of Centenary stamps is also a striking illustration of the universality of the Movement and of the way in which, one hundred years after its foundation, it is recognised and has made its mark among the people of all continents and countries, whatever their form of government or religion.

The year 1963 was also a bumper one for Red Cross publicity through postage stamps. Hundreds of varieties of these universal messengers, each bearing the Red Cross, Red Crescent or Red Lion and Sun emblem, have been used to frank millions and millions of letters.

For an immense number of people these images took on a voice, evoking the Centenary of the Movement, recalling it for those who already knew about it, informing others of the unceasing presence of the Red Cross.

The Red Cross Centenary issue was also good publicity for Red Cross philately, which as a result has developed steadily in the last year and a half. Most philatelists are taking an interest in this subject for the first time. Many started to collect Red Cross postage stamps during the Centenary and are now looking for previous issues. One example of this new enthusiasm is given by a stamp dealer in Geneva, who previously had only two or three clients specialising in Red Cross philately and now has over sixty on his list for Centenary issues as they appear.

BOOKS

It was certainly an appealing idea to collect postage stamps issued for one special event by almost all countries, many of which had no previous Red Cross issue to their credit. This was the case of 30 States including Austria, the Holy See, Ireland, Jordan, Peru, the United Kingdom, etc., and also a large number of countries recently independent, such as Cyprus, Ghana, Guinea, Mali, Madagascar, Niger, Sierra Leone, Upper Volta . . . It is also interesting to note that two Centenary commemorative postage stamps were put into circulation in each of the 37 Overseas Territories of the United Kingdom, a rare event showing the importance attached to this occasion by the British Governmental Authorities.

One design element predominated in the majority of the Red Cross postage stamps issued in 1963-1964; this was the official Centenary emblem, the stylised lamp and its flame created by the Swiss graphic artist Baumberger. Used in publications, on posters, badges, and many other kinds of material, it has travelled round the world.

The whole history of the Red Cross and the many and varied activities of National Societies are pictured on the stamps; the universality of the Movement and the now well-known face of its founder, Henry Dunant, are also prominently featured. Alongside the postage stamps there were countless temporary postmarks, cancellation marks, First Day covers, seals, etc., which also all contributed to the wide Centenary publicity for the Red Cross.

The postage stamps just issued are in addition to more than 2,000 which have appeared over the years since 1889 and which recall milestones of the Red Cross Movement. Above all, they symbolise the close co-operation between the Red Cross and the postal authorities, often during especially difficult periods; an eloquent testimony to this collaboration is one of the many good results obtained in the Centenary Year.

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

(AGREED AND AMENDED ON SEPTEMBER 25, 1952)

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

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

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

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

Its emblem shall be a red cross on a white ground. Its motto shall be “*Inter arma caritas*”.

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

- (a) to maintain the fundamental and permanent principles of the Red Cross, namely: impartiality, action independent of any racial, political, religious or economic considerations, the universality of the Red Cross and the equality of the National Red Cross Societies ;
- (b) to recognize any newly established or reconstituted National Red Cross Society which fulfils the conditions for recognition in force, and to notify other National Societies of such recognition ;

¹ The International Red Cross comprises the National Red Cross Societies, the International Committee of the Red Cross and the League of Red Cross Societies. The term “*National Red Cross Societies*” includes the Red Crescent Societies and the Red Lion and Sun Society.

- (c) to undertake the tasks incumbent on it under the Geneva Conventions, to work for the faithful application of these Conventions and to take cognizance of any complaints regarding alleged breaches of the humanitarian Conventions ;
- (d) to take action in its capacity as a neutral institution, especially in case of war, civil war or internal strife ; to endeavour to ensure at all times that the military and civilian victims of such conflicts and of their direct results receive protection and assistance, and to serve, in humanitarian matters, as an intermediary between the parties ;
- (e) to contribute, in view of such conflicts, to the preparation and development of medical personnel and medical equipment, in cooperation with the Red Cross organizations, the medical services of the armed forces, and other competent authorities ;
- (f) to work for the continual improvement of humanitarian international law and for the better understanding and diffusion of the Geneva Conventions and to prepare for their possible extension ;
- (g) to accept the mandates entrusted to it by the International Conferences of the Red Cross.

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

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



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ADDRESSES OF CENTRAL COMMITTEES

- AFGHANISTAN — Afghan Red Crescent, *Kabul*.
- ALBANIA — Albanian Red Cross, 35, Rruga Barrikadavet, *Tirana*.
- ALGERIA — Central Committee of the Algerian Red Crescent Society, 8 bis, rue Henry-Dunant, *Algiers*.
- ARGENTINE — Argentine Red Cross, H. Yri-goyen 2068, *Buenos Aires*.
- AUSTRALIA — Australian Red Cross, 122-128 Flinders Street, *Melbourne, C. 1*.
- AUSTRIA — Austrian Red Cross, 3 Gusshausstrasse, *Vienna IV*.
- BELGIUM — Belgian Red Cross, 98, Chaussée de Vleurgat, *Brussels 5*.
- BOLIVIA — Bolivian Red Cross, Avenida Simon-Bolivar, 1515 (Casilla 741), *La Paz*.
- BRAZIL — Brazilian Red Cross, Praça da Cruz Vermelha 10-12, *Rio de Janeiro*.
- BULGARIA — Bulgarian Red Cross, 1, Boul. S.S. Biruzov, *Sofia*.
- BURMA — Burma Red Cross, 42, Strand Road, Red Cross Building, *Rangoon*.
- BURUNDI — Red Cross Society of Burundi, P.O. Box 1037, *Usumbura*.
- CAMBODIA — Cambodian Red Cross, 17 R Ruelle Preak Bat Trasak Paëm, P.O.B. 94, *Phnom-Penh*.
- CAMEROON — Central Committee of the Cameroon Red Cross Society, rue Henry-Dunant, P.O.B. 631, *Yaoundé*.
- CANADA — Canadian Red Cross, 95 Wellesley Street East, *Toronto 5*.
- CEYLON — Ceylon Red Cross, 106 Dharmapala Mawatte, *Colombo VII*.
- CHILE — Chilean Red Cross, Avenida Santa Maria 0150, Casilla 246 V., *Santiago de Chile*.
- CHINA — Red Cross Society of China, 22, Kanmien Hutung, *Peking, E*.
- COLOMBIA — Colombian Red Cross, Carrera 7a, 34-65 Apartado nacional 11-10, *Bogota*.
- CONGO — Red Cross of the Congo, 24, Avenue Valcke, P.O. Box 1712, *Léopoldville*.
- COSTA RICA — Costa Rican Red Cross, Calle 5a Sur, Apartado 1025, *San José*.
- CUBA — Cuban Red Cross, Ignacio Agramonte 461, *Havana*.
- CZECHOSLOVAKIA — Czechoslovak Red Cross, 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 Galvan 24, Apartado 1293 *San Domingo*.
- ECUADOR — Ecuadorean Red Cross, Avenida Colombia y Elizalde 118, *Quito*.
- ETHIOPIA — Ethiopian Red Cross, Red Cross Road No. 1, P.O. Box 195, *Addis Ababa*.
- FINLAND — Finnish Red Cross, Tehtaankatu I A, *Helsinki*.
- FRANCE — French Red Cross, 17, rue Quentin-Bauchart, *Paris (8^e)*.
- GERMANY (Dem. Republic) — German Red Cross in the German Democratic Republic, Kaitzerstrasse 2, *Dresden A. 1*.
- GERMANY (Federal Republic) — German Red Cross in the Federal Republic of Germany, Friedrich-Ebert-Allee 71, 5300 *Bonn 1*, Postfach (D.B.R.).
- GHANA — Ghana Red Cross, P.O. Box 835, *Accra*.
- GREAT BRITAIN — British Red Cross, 14 Grosvenor Crescent, *London, S.W.1*.
- GREECE — Hellenic Red Cross, rue Lycavittou 1, *Athens 135*.
- GUATEMALA — Guatemalan Red Cross, 3.ª Calle 8-40 zona 1, *Guatemala C.A.*
- HAITI — Haiti Red Cross, rue Férou, *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, Ølduggøtu 4, *Reykjavik*, Post Box 872.
- INDIA — Indian Red Cross, 1 Red Cross Road, *New Delhi 1*.
- INDONESIA — Indonesian Red Cross, Tanah Abang Barat 66, P.O. Box 2009, *Djakarta*.
- IRAN — Iranian Red Lion and Sun Society, Avenue Ark, *Teheran*.
- IRAQ — Iraqi Red Crescent, Al-Mansour, *Baghdad*.
- IRELAND — Irish Red Cross, 25 Westland Row, *Dublin*.
- 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 Red Crescent, P.O. Box 1337, *Amman*.
- KOREA (Democratic Republic) — Red Cross Society of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, *Pyongyang*.
- KOREA (Republic) — The Republic of Korea National Red Cross, 32-3 Ka Nam San-Dong, *Seoul*.

ADDRESSES OF CENTRAL COMMITTEES

- LAOS — Laotian Red Cross, *Vientiane*.
- LEBANON — Lebanese Red Cross, rue Général Spears, *Beirut*.
- LIBERIA — Liberian National Red Cross, Camp Johnson Road, P.O. Box 226, *Monrovia*.
- LIBYA — Libyan Red Crescent, Berka Omar Mukhtar Street, P.O. Box 541, *Benghazi*.
- LIECHTENSTEIN — Liechtenstein Red Cross, *Vaduz*.
- LUXEMBURG — Luxemburg Red Cross, Parc de la Ville, *Luxemburg*.
- MADAGASCAR — Red Cross Society of Madagascar, rue Clemenceau, P.O. Box 1168, *Tananarive*.
- MALAYA — Red Cross Society of the Federation of Malaya, Jalan Belfield 519, *Kuala Lumpur*
- MEXICO — Mexican Red Cross, Sinaloa 20, 4^o piso, *Mexico 7, D.F.*
- MONACO — Red Cross of Monaco, 27, Boul. de Suisse, *Monte-Carlo*.
- MONGOLIA — Red Cross Society of the Mongolian People's Republic, Central Post Office, Post Box 537, *Ulan-Bator*.
- MOROCCO — Moroccan Red Crescent, rue Calmette, *Rabat*.
- NEPAL — Nepal Red Cross Society, Tripureswore, 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 Nordeste, 305, *Managua, D.N.C.A.*
- NIGERIA — Nigerian Red Cross Society, 2 Makoko Road, Yaba, P.O. Box 764, *Lagos*.
- NORWAY — Norwegian Red Cross, Parkveien 33b, *Oslo*.
- PAKISTAN — Pakistan Red Cross, Frere Street, *Karachi 4*.
- PANAMA — Panamanian Red Cross, Apartado 668, *Panama*.
- PARAGUAY — Paraguayan Red Cross, calle André Barbero y Artigas 33, *Asunción*.
- PERU — Peruvian Red Cross, Tarapaca 881, *Lima*.
- PHILIPPINES — Philippine National Red Cross, 860 United Nations Avenue, P.O.B. 280, *Manila*.
- POLAND — Polish Red Cross, Mokotowska 14, *Warsaw*.
- PORTUGAL — Portuguese Red Cross, General Secretaryship, Jardim 9 de Abril, 1 a 5, *Lisbon 3*.
- RUMANIA — Red Cross of the Rumanian People's Republic, Strada Biserica Amzei 29, C.P. 729, *Bucarest*.
- SALVADOR — Salvador Red Cross, 3a Avenida Norte y 3a Calle Poniente 21, *San Salvador*.
- SAN MARINO — San Marino Red Cross, *San Marino*.
- SAUDI ARABIA — Saudi Arabian Red Crescent, *Riyadh*.
- SENEGAL — Senegalese Red Cross Society, P.O.B. 299, *Dakar*.
- SIERRA LEONE — Sierra Leone Red Cross Society, 6 Liverpool Street, P.O.B. 427, *Freetown*.
- SOUTH AFRICA — South African Red Cross, 14 Hollard Street, P.O.B. 8726, *Johannesburg*.
- SPAIN — Spanish Red Cross, Eduardo Dato 16, *Madrid, 10*.
- SUDAN — Sudanese Red Crescent, P.O. Box 235, *Khartoum*.
- SWEDEN — Swedish Red Cross, Artillerigatan 6, *Stockholm 14*.
- SWITZERLAND — Swiss Red Cross, Taubenstrasse 8, *Berne*.
- SYRIA — Syrian Red Crescent, 13, rue Abi-Ala-Almaari, *Damascus*.
- TANZANIA — Tanzania 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*.
- 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, Kouznetsky Most 18/7, *Moscow k.31*.
- 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-Trièz, *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*.