

**MARCH-APRIL 1984**

**TWENTY-FOURTH YEAR — No. 239**

# **international review of the red cross**



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The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), together with the League of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and the 132 recognized National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, is one of the three components of the International Red Cross.

An independent humanitarian institution, the ICRC is the founding body of the Red Cross. As a neutral intermediary in case of armed conflicts or disturbances, it endeavours on its own initiative or on the basis of the Geneva Conventions to protect and assist the victims of international and civil wars and of internal troubles and tensions, thereby contributing to peace in the world.

# INTERNATIONAL REVIEW OF THE RED CROSS

ISSN 0020-8604

March - April 1984 — No. 239

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*International Review of the Red Cross* has been published, in French, under various titles, by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) since 1869. Its first complete edition in English was issued in 1961.

- As the official organ of the ICRC and the International Red Cross,
- specializing in international humanitarian law and ICRC doctrine,
- recording the international activities of the Red Cross, mainly for reference purpose, as a chronicle of events,

*International Review of the Red Cross* provides a constant flow of information and maintains the necessary link between the members of the International Red Cross.

*International Review of the Red Cross* appears once every two months in three languages:

in English: INTERNATIONAL REVIEW OF THE RED CROSS (from 1961)

in French: REVUE INTERNATIONALE DE LA CROIX-ROUGE

in Spanish: REVISTA INTERNACIONAL DE LA CRUZ ROJA (from 1976)

It also publishes, in German, a short edition, *Extracts*, of various articles which appear in the main editions.

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EDITOR: Michel Testuz

ADDRESS: International Review of the Red Cross  
17, Avenue de la Paix  
CH - 1211 Geneva, Switzerland

SUBSCRIPTIONS: one year, Sw. frs. 30.—; single copy Sw. frs. 5.—  
Extracts in German: one year, Sw. frs. 10.—; single copy  
Sw. frs. 2.—

Postal Cheque Account: No. 12 - 1767 Geneva

Bank account No. 129.986 Swiss Bank Corporation, Geneva

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# The Fundamental Principles of the Red Cross and Peace

*Significance of the principles for the spirit of peace*

by Jean Pictet

## INTRODUCTION

Since life began on earth, creatures have struggled against creatures. Through all ages, man has groaned under the sword and the yoke. The pages of history are stained with blood. Everywhere we see only slaughter, torture, oppression. Why?

The famous physicist, Albert Einstein, haunted by the spectre of war, asked this question of Sigmund Freud, the famous psychologist, another man of genius. Here is his reply:

*“You are surprised that it is so easy to incite men to war and you assume that they have in them an active principle, an instinct of hatred and destruction all ready to welcome this form of excitement. . . . We admit that man’s instincts are of two kinds: those which aim to preserve and unify—we call these “erotic”—and those which aim to destroy and kill—we classify these under the terms “aggressive urge” or “destructive urge”.*

*These impulses are both indispensable to each other. It is from their concerted or antagonistic action that are derived the phenomena of life. Now, it would appear that it scarcely ever arises that an instinct of one of these two categories can assert itself in isolation; it is always bound up with a certain amount of the other category, which modifies its object or, as the case may be, alone enables it to accomplish it. Thus, for example, the instinct of self-preservation is certainly of an erotic nature, but it is*

*precisely this same instinct which must resort to aggressiveness if it wants to see its intentions triumph. In the same way, the love instinct brought to objects has need of a quota of the possessive instinct, if it wishes definitely to enter into possession of its object. And it is precisely the difficulty one experiences in isolating these two sorts of instinct, as they show themselves, which has prevented us from recognizing that for so long.*<sup>1</sup>

Nowadays, psychologists call these two great instincts “eros” and “thanatos”.

Thus, man seeks to kill, to harm, to dominate; he will resort to violence and, consequently, cause suffering, in order to have a greater chance of surviving, of raising and increasing his power.

The strong always tend to oppress the weak and individuals see their fellows first as rivals. This is a law of nature which the animal world illustrates: the large devour the small and, in certain species at least, when one of the herd is wounded or weak, its fellows pounce on it and finish it off. This is what man must have done for thousands of years. Later, the defence reflex and the need for security extended to the group. The wiser understood that if man wanted to be spared, he had to spare others: they sensed that in life it is better to get on with each other than to tear each other apart.

Whether we like it or not, war answers one of the most powerful instincts in man, and, for a long time, it was the first and most important relationship between peoples. In the 5,000 years of history, statistics show that there were 14,000 wars, which caused the death of 4,000 million human beings. In the last 3,400 years, the world has had only 250 years of overall peace. The First World War caused the death of 10 million human beings, not including 21 million deaths caused by epidemics. In the Second World War, 40 million people were killed.

The great Swiss publicist Bluntschli wrote in the last century:

*“I cannot subscribe to the fervent apologies for war to which writers of significance have been keen to lend their names.... Although I greatly esteem bravery, courage, composure, virile qualities which are fostered by war and which, mobilizing all bodily and mental forces, elevate them to heroism, I am restrained by the thought of the savage hatred of men for other men, by the spectacle of individuals, frenziedly destroying, pillaging and causing bloodshed. I remember the horrible and often entirely useless*

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<sup>1</sup> International Institute of Intellectual Co-operation, League of Nations, 1933 (free translation from a French translation).

*suffering that man inflicts on his fellows. I remember the misfortune of so many families, the shattered happiness of so many thousands of people. Songs of victory are for me like the howling of wolves. . .”.*

In the face of such organized killing, does the Red Cross repudiate its ideal? Does humanitarianism abandon its efforts? Can we allow the flower of youth to be cut down on the fields of slaughter? Verily the Red Cross abhors war and its triumphs. Its ideal extends to all beings even to combatants themselves. But powerless against a scourge whose fury is as uncontrollable as it is horrific, the Red Cross has committed itself first of all to combating its disastrous effects.

It is often said that the Red Cross is out to “humanize” war but this is a misleading expression, which is partly responsible for the scepticism that the effort to combat the suffering caused by hostilities has sometimes aroused. On this confusion is based the witticism of Sir John Fisher, First Lord of the British Admiralty and promoter of the “Dreadnought”, who, when he learnt of the meeting of The Hague Conference in 1907, said: “Humanizing war is like wanting to humanize hell!” How, indeed, could one speak of humanizing warfare in face of the most terrible outbreak of violence that man can conceive? Let us rather speak of “limiting the evils of war”.

It is not the purpose of the present essay to discuss war as such. This is the concern of “polemology”,<sup>1</sup> a new discipline which sets out to trace the causes of wars, to anticipate their development and to try to check them as long as this is still within the power of man.

Polemology is based on the observation that all social systems experience conflicts, which develop in a similar manner: family, economic, political, religious, racial and international conflicts.

We can conceive of two kinds of peace:

- a) negative, or static, peace which is based on the *status quo* and which consists solely in the absence of war. This, unfortunately, is the kind that statesmen mainly have in mind;
- b) positive, or dynamic, peace, which alone in the long term can eradicate war, and which entails organizing the world in such a way that social groups can live in harmony in a well-structured system with pooled resources and common values.

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<sup>1</sup> What follows on the subject of polemology is taken from “Guerre et Paix”, an article by Prof. B.V.A. Röling, Director of the Institute of Polemology, University of Groningen (Netherlands).

By its very nature, the Red Cross cannot decree what attitudes to peace should be adopted; what it can do at least is to state its own constructive attitude based on an ethic of human solidarity. This can be seen from the following definition which is given in the preamble to the Programme of Action of the Red Cross as a Factor of Peace, adopted by the World Red Cross Conference on Peace (Belgrade, June 1975):

*“ The Red Cross does not view peace simply as the absence of war, but rather as a dynamic process of co-operation among all states and peoples; co-operation founded on freedom, independence, national sovereignty, equality, respect of human rights as well as a fair and equitable distribution of resources to meet the needs of peoples.*

*The Red Cross considers respect of humanitarian rules, in all circumstances, essential to peace.”*

That programme, which constitutes a set of guidelines to help members of the Red Cross family to work actively for peace, also makes mention of the basic Red Cross principles, which “*contribute to peace by developing understanding, strengthening friendship, collaboration and mutual aid between the Red Cross organizations, as members of the world Red Cross family and among peoples in general.*”

For half a century, the Red Cross has asked itself what role it can and should play to safeguard peace. The aim of the present study is to reply to this question in the light of the basic principles which govern the entire movement. It will be seen that the Red Cross principles, proclaimed in 1965, assign the movement, in this area of major importance for the future of humanity, certain duties, and provide to this end a basis for its action, while at the same time specifying how far it can go without compromising its existence. It will also be seen that the Red Cross principles and the ideal of the movement have a deep significance in the common effort against war and that each of them, if put into practice, can make a substantial contribution. In this way, we would hope to facilitate a better understanding of the message of peace that the Red Cross addresses to the world.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> For further information on the origin and development of the fundamental principles, see: J. Pictet, “Red Cross Principles”, ICRC, 1956, and “Commentary on the Fundamental Principles of the Red Cross”, Henry Dunant Institute, Geneva, 1979, pp. 3-9 (reproduced in *International Review of the Red Cross*, from May-June 1979 to Sept.-Oct. 1980.)

## 1. HUMANITY

*The Red Cross, born of a desire to bring assistance without discrimination to the wounded on the battlefield, endeavours—in its international and national capacity—to prevent and alleviate human suffering wherever it may be found. Its purpose is to protect life and health and to ensure respect for the human being. It promotes mutual understanding, friendship, co-operation and lasting peace amongst all peoples.*

The principle of humanity is foremost in the Red Cross doctrine and determines its ideals, motives and aims. It is the basis of the institution. All other principles derive from it. This is why it has been called the essential principle.

In action for peace, too, it is the cardinal principle, because this action depends entirely on it.

The proclamation speaks first of all of *alleviating* human suffering, and it has been acknowledged that the protection and assistance activities that the Red Cross carries out daily, wherever man suffers by the deeds of his fellow men, work towards that aim. Its activities in the thick of the struggle are acts of peace. To act as an intermediary between enemies, to promote humanitarian law, is to create a climate conducive to peace and reconciliation.

But the proclamation assigns to the Red Cross the duty not only to relieve suffering but also to prevent it. To its traditional reparative activity, the Red Cross has thus added a preventive activity, and this represents an achievement of modern times. For indeed, the best way of combating suffering is not to inflict it, to prevent it from arising, to seek out and eradicate its causes, in order to nip it in the bud. Prevention is better than cure, as the saying goes.

This is the context of the Red Cross role for the promotion of peace. No longer content to mitigate the effects of war, it should go to the root of the matter and participate—as best it can and within the bounds of its political neutrality—in the struggle against war itself, trying to prevent it from occurring and to ensure that differences between States are settled by peaceful means.

The Red Cross is founded on the humanitarian doctrine. This, as it is understood today, does not only mean combating the suffering of the moment. It also implies more positive aims, such as trying to prevent social ills, of which war, by its magnitude, is the most serious.

We shall see that the means of direct action available to the Red Cross to eliminate armed conflicts from human relations are very restricted, because of the limits imposed by its character and its doctrine.

But in this crusade, the Red Cross is an important moral factor. Let us review some of its elements.

### **a) Social morality**

The humanitarianism of the Red Cross and its pacifism both come from the same source: social morality. This can be summarized in a single sentence: do unto others as you would have others do unto you. This basic precept occurs in a similar form in all the major religions of this earth, and it is also the golden rule of the positivists, who, in the name of rationality, accept only empirical data. It is therefore a universal truth, because it accords fully with human nature and with the necessities of life in society.

Numerous religious or philosophical doctrines say that all philanthropic acts are inspired by “love of one’s neighbour”. It is not a question of love-desire here but of love-devotion, that is an altruistic and selfless feeling. This requires a certain self-control; it can come from fulfilling an obligation; it can extend even to the enemy.

For these schools of thought, the struggle for peace is indissolubly linked with love of one’s neighbour, which has no bounds but extends to the whole of humanity, opening its arms in brotherhood to the multitudes: “Be embraced, millions of beings!”<sup>1</sup>

### **b) A spiritual struggle**

The Red Cross wages a spiritual struggle to eliminate war from human relations.

The International Red Cross Conferences have acknowledged that the national and international institutions of the Red Cross can do a great deal to *develop a spirit of peace*. In its own field of action, the Red Cross can create a climate conducive to harmony, appeasement and reconciliation between peoples. Its worldwide network of Societies, committed to the same ideal, allows for substantial contact between countries, even when they are separated by dispute. This is the reason for resolution 20, adopted by the Twenty-first International Red Cross Conference, held at Istanbul in 1969, which recommends meetings between National Societies, in cases of conflict or threat to peace.

In our civilization, where human beings are more and more interdependent, peace has a chance only if it takes root in the heart of each

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<sup>1</sup> *Ode to Joy*, words by Schiller, paraphrased and put to music by Beethoven in the final movement of his 9th Symphony, adopted by United Nations as world hymn.

individual. Could not National Societies, in liaison with public education authorities, show people, and especially children, that if we wish to see peace established, everyone must disarm his own heart, banishing hatred and making peace with his fellowmen, and first of all with those whom he meets in everyday life?

Almost everywhere young people are educated to citizenship, so why could they not also be educated to international citizenship, as Mr. Jacques Mühlethaler, the promoter of the movement "The school as an instrument of peace" has advocated, encouraging them to enter into closer contact with other groups of human beings, to try and understand their culture, to examine their ideas and opinions before condemning them? In this area we lack practical guidance.

In the armies of many countries, new recruits are called upon to swear "allegiance to the flag", by which they undertake to defend their country. Could one not introduce "an oath to humanity" that each soldier should swear; an oath to ensure respect of the human person and to limit violence, without his having to betray his duties as a citizen and a soldier?

### **c) Rejection of violence**

The Red Cross has a certain view of the world; the respect of life, of individual liberty and, to a certain extent, of individual happiness is based on an unwritten principle that underlies its activity: the refusal to use violence and be led by hatred.

In this sense, it can be said that it preaches, in varying degrees, tolerance, gentleness, patience, clemency, indulgence, constancy, forbearance, leniency, magnanimity, all of which contribute to peace.

In the midst of violence, the Red Cross intervenes without using violence. The Red Cross is the only great idea in whose name no blood has ever been shed.

It has been said of the first Geneva Convention that it sowed the seed of peace in the thick of the fighting; this could also be said of the institution which gave rise to this convention: the Red Cross. Endeavouring to prevent war, it rejects the idea of peace imposed by the stronger party, and adopts the idea of a peace based on the respect of personal rights, liberties, and opinions.<sup>1</sup> For it is generally agreed today that the

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<sup>1</sup> This use of the word "respect" has sometimes been misunderstood. To respect someone's opinion is to allow him to express it and to examine it objectively. It does not necessarily mean to share it. If it is considered to be wrong and dangerous it must obviously be challenged. Error is not something to be respected.

kind of peace which should be promoted does not consist only in the absence of war, but must be founded on justice.

#### **d) Setting an example**

The action of the Red Cross, as has often been pointed out, is already the symbol of peace. On the battlefield, it commands the belligerent forces to call truces to pick up the wounded or to evacuate non-combatants. Through the Geneva Conventions that it itself inspired, the Red Cross has managed to obtain for certain persons, especially doctors and nursing personnel, and certain localities, such as hospitals, a status entitling them to immunity from the effects of war. The miracle of the Red Cross is that it gives belligerents, even in battledress, the possibility to meet in time of war, on the very field of battle, not to fight, but to discuss human values and problems of mutual aid.

Each time it proclaims respect of the human person, the Red Cross reminds us that war, for society, is an accidental state of affairs, whereas peace is normal, just as illness is accidental and good health normal.

Whenever the tragic gulf of war separates men, the Red Cross remains the last bridge of hope. Prevailing over the strongest antagonisms, it stands as an example of universal altruism. By its indefatigable struggle against all forms of suffering, it puts to shame all those who inflict it.

By creating an international climate conducive to peace, the Red Cross helps to bring the peoples of the world closer together. It fosters between them a spirit of conciliation and healthy emulation, and a sense of communal responsibility to the good of humanity.

#### **e) Denouncing the evils of war**

It is not true that the work of the Red Cross and the development of “the law of war” encourages war, makes it appear less horrifying and harms the efforts which are made to prevent it, to eradicate it. The inanity of this criticism, repeated time and again ever since the Red Cross came into existence, has been demonstrated.<sup>1</sup>

The Red Cross knows the evils of war better than anyone, from experience, and has never tried to conceal them. It has, on the contrary, stripped war of its false glory and exposed it in all its odiousness. Why should the Red Cross not participate in disseminating information in

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<sup>1</sup> See J. Pictet, “La Croix-Rouge et la Paix” in *Revue internationale de la Croix-Rouge*, March 1951, pp. 191-201.

word and image on the horrors and calamities of war, its fatal consequences, indeed on everything that could help to destroy its mythical image ?

The Red Cross, in a still more immediate way, combats war by reducing its disastrous effects. Its supreme aim is world peace, but it cannot with its present strength stamp out war altogether. To mitigate the evils that one cannot eradicate fully and immediately is a logical course of action. In the struggle for peace, each must do his best with the means he has available.

#### **f) Some practical suggestions**

We shall see later that international assistance, of which the Red Cross has no monopoly, contributes to peace, since it helps, modestly but substantively, to reduce material inequality between peoples.

There are other specific areas which are important to the maintenance of peace. But whether, to some extent, they fall within the competence of the Red Cross is another question.

One of these is birth control. The population explosion is certainly a threat to world peace. The explanation of this phenomenon was clearly given by Malthus, at the beginning of the last century: the world population grows in a geometrical progression, while the increase in food resources is only arithmetical.

If the multiplication of the human race continues at the same rate, the catastrophe—at least in some parts of the world—will be fatal and inexorable. The problem of achieving demographic stability is one which will not easily be mastered, and in that area there are great moral obstacles, some commanding considerable respect.

The same is true for the protection of the environment, which is tightly bound up with the previous question. If this problem is not resolved peacefully before the end of this century, it will resolve itself in the next, but in anguish. It is not absurd to imagine that peoples who are dying of hunger, thirst, even suffocation, will destroy each other in a desperate effort to survive. Owing to the lack of organization on a world level, there is a genuine inability to take the necessary global emergency measures.

The founders of the Red Cross and Henry Dunant in particular considered already in their time that the ultimate aim of their work and of the Convention they called into being was nothing other than universal peace. They had understood that, in the end, the Red Cross was working towards its own annihilation and that the day would come when men

would finally accept the message of humanity and put it into practice, lay down their arms and destroy them, making all future war impossible, and so depriving the Red Cross of the reasons for its existence. This is the meaning of the motto "Per humanitatem ad pacem" which has been officially adopted alongside the traditional motto "Inter arma caritas".

### Quotations

*The breach that the Red Cross has made in the egoism of nations is irreparable, and the consequences of its victory are unlimited. Little by little all social relations, so often stained by hostility and hatred, should show the effect of this infusion of new blood into the veins of civilized nations.*

GUSTAVE MOYNIER  
(The Red Cross, its past and future)

*To take this path (the signing of the Geneva Convention in 1864), is to take a decisive step on a slippery slope where there is no stopping; it cannot but lead to the unqualified condemnation of war. . . . Future generations will see the gradual disappearance of war. An infallible logic so wills.*

G. MOYNIER

*Every curb on the violence of combatants is an implicit protest against war itself.*

G. MOYNIER

*We may ask ourselves whether the systematic efforts of all nations to diminish the horrors of this great scourge, war, could not bring about its disappearance from the surface of the earth.*

FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE

*To encourage solidarity for good between nations is to fight war.*

HENRY DUNANT  
(The Beginnings of the Red Cross in France)

*A new sense of humanity introduced in the scourge of war and which lessens its horrors has once more helped save the peoples of the world from the destruction which seems constantly to threaten them.*

VOLTAIRE  
(*Essai sur les mœurs*)

*There are at present two opposing laws : the law of blood and death which, by inventing each day new ways of fighting, obliges the peoples of the world to be in constant readiness for the battlefield; and the law of peace, of work, of salvation, whose only purpose is to free man from the afflictions which plague him. The one seeks only violent conquests; the other, to ease mankind's burdens. The former would sacrifice hundreds of millions of lives for the ambition of one; the latter places one human life above all victories.*

PASTEUR

### Maxims

*Remember that love and charity are the pillars of the world.*

BUDDHA

*Omnia vincit amor (Love triumphs over all).*

VIRGIL  
(Eclogue X)

*Hate does not yield to hate, but to love.*

Buddhist text

*Blood cannot be washed away with blood.*

SHAKESPEARE

*Except for a battle lost, nothing is so tragic as a battle won.*

WELLINGTON

*Homo sacra res homini (Man is sacred to man).*

SENECA

*The first lesson to learn is respect for all life.*

BALAKRISHNAN  
(Truth of life)

*Any other science is prejudicial to the person lacking the science of goodness.*

MONTAIGNE

*With he who is good, I am good. With he who is not good, I am good.*

LAO TZE

*This noble principle of returning good for evil.*

Sutra of the Forty-two sections

*It is more glorious to distinguish oneself by acts of goodness than by military prowess; the latter is striking only for the harm it does to men; the former for the good it does them.*

XENOPHON

*Men, be human. That is your first duty.*

JEAN-JACQUES ROUSSEAU

*Peace is the fruit of love.*

LAMENNAIS

*Charity surpasses all obligations; its beauty lies precisely in freedom.*

VICTOR COUSIN

*A man dies in me each time a man dies somewhere, killed by the hatred and haste of other men.*

JAIME TORRÈS BODET

*To save a life is to save the world.*

Hebrew proverb

## 2. IMPARTIALITY

*The Red Cross makes no distinction as to nationality, race, religious beliefs, class or political opinions. It endeavours to relieve the suffering of individuals, being guided solely by their needs, and to give priority to the most urgent cases of distress.*

Under this one heading are grouped three distinct notions: non-discrimination, proportionality and impartiality.

### a) Non-discrimination

Non-discrimination is of primary importance in our study.

It would be easier to define non-discrimination by stating that discrimination is a differentiation or segregation practised to the detriment of certain persons on the sole grounds that they belong to a specific category.

Non-discrimination amongst people is the most significant of the Red Cross principles next to that of humanity, to which it is, incidentally, related. Indeed, at the core of the principle of humanity is human suffering which calls for charitable action, and charitable action is built on the needs of the suffering. The Red Cross's concern is all-embracing; it extends to all people, for they are fellowmen by virtue of their common nature.

Soon after the battle of Solferino, Henry Dunant launched the following appeal giving it its extreme interpretation: take care of the wounded, foe and friend alike; and in 1864, non-discrimination was written into the Geneva Conventions, and later into human rights legislation. It is also a rule of medical ethics. However, one must not forget that the principle of non-discrimination is a victory of modern thought; it has permitted the world of the masters and that of servants to come together and become one mankind.<sup>1</sup>

The Red Cross practises non-discrimination in its specific field of activities—equal care and assistance for those in need—and this precept is also valid for problems concerning peace. Since the social revolution that took place at the end of the eighteenth century, society has recognized that all people have equal rights.

The aspiration of people to greater justice makes them wish—since a natural equality is denied them by fate—for equality of opportunity and conditions. The spirit of equity calls on them to extend the benefit thereof to all human beings and, in the spirit of humanity, even to those they hate.

Discrimination is one of the most frequent causes of conflict. Acts of discrimination are always committed for motives unrelated to the concrete case and because one considers discrimination as an element only of the inequality among people in a sphere where equality should predominate.

Discrimination, a source of conflict and wars, can take many forms. Let us first consider *racial discrimination*, to which can be added differentiation on the basis of nationality, language or culture. This is also called racism. It is expressly mentioned in the Proclamation of Red Cross Principles.

It has been scientifically proven that there is no such thing as absolute inferiority, that no individual is intrinsically inferior to another for ethnic reasons. If educated from birth in the same conditions, children

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<sup>1</sup> Jean-G. Lossier: *Les civilisations et le service du prochain*, La Colombe, Paris, 1958.

of different origins will show on the average equal potential. Certain communities are less advanced than others, but that is for social reasons and due to a lack of development. By the same token, it is false that metis, as was once thought, inherit only the defects of the different races of which they were born, and not the qualities.<sup>1</sup>

There is, however, no opposition so tenacious and so virulent as that which is based on racial considerations, probably because racial differences, the sources of antagonism, are clearly visible. Man dislikes people who are different; he assumes they are his enemies and bares to them his primitive destructive instinct, which Freud showed to be inseparable from the instinct of self-preservation. The myth of the “superior race” can only be propagated by proclaiming others to be inferior, which means scorning them. What sorrows could have been avoided if the skin of humans all over the planet were of the same colour !

The tragedy is that for centuries white and non-white civilizations lived side by side without either even trying to understand the other. It is imperative to keep an open mind to the mysteries of other cultures.

Although racism is the form of discrimination about which one talks the most at present—there are also fashionable ideologies—it is not the only one. There are others that are just as widespread and just as threatening to peace. There is, for instance, *political discrimination*, also mentioned in the Proclamation, and like racism in nature and effect.

This is not to say that politics is in itself an evil. It has its worth inasmuch as it establishes order for the greatest benefit of the largest number of persons, by putting force at the service of justice. Furthermore, we could hardly do away with it, since society must be organized and governed.

Politics can be summed up in one sentence: in every community of human beings there are those who wish to keep things the way they are—the conservatives—and those who would like to see them change—the revolutionaries. On both sides may be found thinkers who sincerely take into consideration the good of all. They are few in number, though, and they cannot prevent what should be a common ideal and objective goal—which must, of course, allow for debate over constructive but contrasting ideas—from becoming an arena for the clash of short-sighted and ill-conceived ideas that too often serve self-seeking and brutal instincts.

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<sup>1</sup> It is not our intention here to suggest that races should mix, for doing so makes for the disappearance of ethnic minorities whose diversity is enriching for all.

Conflicts of this type are characterized by a lack of understanding for the opinions of another, a lack which can amount to total deafness to any argument, for the parties are often exclusive: each one claims that only he holds the truth and is in the right. The result is all too often hatred that exacerbates passions and thirst for vengeance, and leads to the worst of violence and crimes. Proof can be found simply by casting a glance at a newspaper.

The same holds true for *religious discrimination*. Although all the great religions, to varying degrees, preach moderation, goodness, love, there are in fact few concepts for which man has so often taken to arms. One has only to recall the violent "religious wars", be they Christian or Islamic.

This stems from the fact that each denomination feels it is the only true one.<sup>1</sup> Its followers therefore find it difficult to understand that one could abandon the faith. The result is sectarianism, intolerance, fanaticism.

Although for the faithful this truth has been revealed and they have been convinced by it, they cannot prove it to others, for we enter here the realm of the mystical, the irrational, and, by definition, values of this type cannot be scientifically demonstrated.

The Red Cross does not claim to be a substitute for religions or morals; on the contrary its ideal is compatible with many religions and moral teachings, but it proposes practical solutions based on mutual aid and common to all men of all beliefs whose experience in day-to-day life has shown them the sense of such solutions. In this way, the Red Cross ideal can reach all men.

If the Red Cross has some influence on the minds of men, let it use that influence to combat fanaticism and replace it with tolerance. Thus it will be working towards peace.

Another type of discrimination, similar to the preceding ones, is *social discrimination*, the last type mentioned in the Proclamation. Throughout history it has had devastating consequences and its effects have far from disappeared. It is the source of the worst injustice, and has given rise to bloody revolts.

Discrimination in this case, as in the others, hinges on a sophism, i.e. that certain individuals and certain classes are of greater value than others for reasons they themselves have imagined and which are in no way proven in the eyes of the others: reasons such as birth, social position and, perhaps most of all, wealth.

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<sup>1</sup> This is not necessarily the case in the East, where there are examples of persons belonging to two or even more religions.

The struggle for social equality has already made definite progress. Regrettably, however, here again hardly scientific points of view, on the right as on the left, have blocked an objective study of the question, and individual interests, with their attendant human weaknesses, have raised political opposition among sincere partisans of social progress. True humanism cannot be implicated in this bitter conflict of dissimulated interests; it is both far ahead and above that.

The Proclamation of the Fundamental Red Cross Principles could also have forbidden discrimination based on *any other similar criteria*. The Geneva Conventions do so, for, of course, the list is not exhaustive; it includes the most striking examples of discrimination.

## **b) Proportionality**

According to this principle, which we could also call “equity”, relief should be afforded to individuals in conformity with the urgency of their needs.

The principles of humanity and non-discrimination would imply that all men be fully and immediately assisted when in distress. Unfortunately, in day-to-day reality, available resources are not sufficient to provide relief at the same time for all ills. There must, therefore, be a guideline for sharing: for equal suffering, equal aid; for unequal suffering, assistance will be proportionate to the intensity and urgency of need.

Proportionality is one of the basic principles underlying Red Cross activities, but it took a long time to be discovered and the wholly partisan nature of generosity presents numerous obstacles to its practical application. Everyone cares for the people for whom he feels responsible or a particular liking. Man is naturally inclined to be moved only by the suffering he sees with his own eyes, because it awakens in him a sense of pity and solidarity.

This also holds true as concerns peace.

Since the end of the eighteenth century, it has been admitted that the riches of the world should not benefit only a handful of privileged persons. Man has come to understand that suffering, poverty, illness and ignorance are not the inevitable lot of the majority of the world's masses. A share of the wealth, a place in the sun, a bit of happiness, has therefore been demanded for each individual. Since one cannot offer all things to all persons, which would be absurd, one starts by ensuring for each person a necessary minimum and acceptable conditions of life. Bringing all men up to the same level is to give more to the impoverished. One cannot remedy an unequal situation unless one gives in unequal proportion.

What is true for individuals is also true for peoples. Inequality in the enjoyment and sharing out of the planet's riches—not at all in proportion to real needs—has been a source of international conflicts just as it has caused domestic strife on numerous occasions.

The volume of goods the Red Cross is helping to move from privileged to poor countries, thanks to honest solidarity, is insignificant compared to the enormity of needs. But it is an effort that serves peace and calls for more widespread action by States.

### **c) Impartiality**

Non-discrimination excludes objective differentiation between persons; and impartiality excludes subjective differentiation. It compels Red Cross members to act without favour or disfavour for any person. It is based on a detailed and objective study of the problems; it requires a constant effort to “depersonalize” assistance activity.

It is precisely in time of conflict, civil war or political tension that partiality may surface. In accordance with its principles, the Red Cross brings assistance to all those who suffer. This includes the guilty parties themselves, an act that has at times not been understood.

In fact, the Red Cross does not interfere in the exercise of justice—which must of course be regular and impartial. It does not interfere with the basic right of the State, society's representative, to punish violations of the law. What the Red Cross asks is that each person be humanely treated; if an individual is declared guilty, he will be sentenced by the courts, but he should receive adequate treatment and the care and aid his condition requires.

Obviously, this is also the attitude of those who serve peace. Impartiality and objectivity, sincerity and serenity are the bases for their action. By trying to see other peoples without prejudice; by considering their qualities rather than their defects; by examining their points of view as would a judge; in short, by trying to put oneself in their place, a large step can be made in the art of peaceful solution of differences.

### **Maxims**

*I do not ask what are your opinions or your religion, but what is your suffering.*

PASTEUR

*Think of others as your equals in dignity.*

KANT

*Only love which makes no distinction will save the world.*

MEH-TI

*Superior is the man who cares equally for all and who is without selfishness or partiality.*

CONFUCIOUS

*Selfishness and hatred alone have a fatherland; brotherhood has none.*

LAMARTINE

*It is not sufficient to do good, good must be done well.*

DIDEROT

*Injustice to one is a threat to all.*

MONTESQUIEU

*The most horrible thing in the world is justice untempered with charity.*

FRANÇOIS MAURIAC

### 3. NEUTRALITY

*In order to continue to enjoy the confidence of all, the Red Cross may not take sides in hostilities or engage at any time in controversies of a political, racial, religious or ideological nature.*

Neutrality is an essentially negative concept: persons who take no side in a conflict are neutral.

Neutrality does not in itself have any moral value. It will be appreciated only in relation to circumstances. It takes on a moral aspect and can even become noble when it stems from a determination to apply permanent principles such as the desire for objectivity, respect for others, love of peace.

No other single element of the Red Cross principles is so fully applicable to the struggle for peace. Indeed it is obvious that if all countries remained neutral, there would, by definition, be no more war.

Neutrality requires true self-control; it imposes self-discipline and restrains impulsive giving way to emotions. The person who takes this difficult road will see that it is rare that one party in a controversy is entirely wrong and the other entirely right. He will see that the motives

often invoked to set one people against another are groundless. From this point of view alone, we can say that neutrality is the first step towards peace.

Neutrality, like impartiality, is often misunderstood and rejected, because everyone can be at the same time both judge and disputant, without having a universally valid criterion. Everyone naively—if not in bad faith—imagines that his is the only just cause; not to defend it is to offend what is true and right.

In an international war, how many of the citizens of one or the other of the fighting countries actually have valid personal reasons for wishing the death of the citizens of the adversary? Very few.<sup>1</sup> And how many know, seriously and at least in some depth, the other country and its inhabitants, other than through prejudices and preconceived notions? Not many more. What happens when well-orchestrated propaganda, spreading exaggerated and tendentious, if not entirely false, reports, incites to indignation and hatred and finally gives a people the necessary motives to take up arms and fight to the death?

As soon as a negotiator, in order to safeguard peace, shows some interest or understanding for the ideas of the adversary—or sometimes merely examines them objectively—he is labelled a traitor and will soon be cast aside, if not done away with. This is why so little progress is made in international peace conferences or talks on disarmament.

On this point, the text of the Proclamation starts with the words “in order to continue to enjoy the confidence of all”. These words are not part of the principle, they explain the reason behind it. They should, however, be given attention. For humanitarian assistance as for peace, confidence is of paramount importance.

If confidence were lacking, one would no longer confide—as the word indicates—public services to the Red Cross; no more donations would be made to the institution. It is, however, because of this confidence that the Red Cross will be heeded when, forsaking its traditional reticence, it publicly voices its point of view on serious moral problems. It is attributed this credit and authority because, in its day-to-day work, it defends the more noble interests linked to the survival of mankind, and perhaps also because its members work selflessly and with devotion.

In a world that has taken a turn for the worse, where violence is on the rise and tyranny has reared its ugly head, the public would like to have a moral court or public prosecutor for humanity who could, in

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<sup>1</sup> There would be many more in a civil war, which is what makes those conflicts so cruel.

serious circumstances, say where the truth lies and show the path to follow. Such an institution would be appealed to in the last resort, after all the resources of international politics had been exhausted, and it would be heeded because of its universal vocation and freedom from any political, ideological or religious prejudice.

We will see further on that it is precisely the principle of neutrality that limits the Red Cross in its action. It could not step beyond these limits without becoming involved in politics. However, in specific cases, its opinion—in the formulation of which it must exercise all necessary caution—is expected and respected; it is without doubt a source of great strength for humanity and peace.

One more point: confidence is of paramount importance in the struggle for peace in general. It is due to the lack of confidence nowadays between peoples that there is no true peace. Only when the seeds of confidence start to bear fruit will a small step in the right direction be possible, on very rare occasions.

Indeed, lack of confidence is linked to fear. It cannot be denied that today panic has overtaken nations and paralyzed their relations, for fear is a poor adviser.

Lack of confidence is also at the root of the stalemate in disarmament efforts over the past fifty years. The very existence of armed forces and the rapid increase in arsenals has no other cause: nobody dares lay down his arms for fear of attack by his rivals, and measures of control are doubtful. This lack of confidence can, of course, be understood, for history is replete with examples of treachery.

To restore a climate of confidence in the world and therefore conquer fear is a gigantic undertaking that some people see as utopic. At the very least, it is an arduous task that will require great expenditure of patience, courage and above all love. Are we to start from the beginning and build up a new world stone by stone? There is, in fact, no other way, for the alternative confronting us at present is this: either war disappears, or the earth will.

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The neutrality to be observed by the Red Cross has two aspects: military and ideological. Little can be said here of the first, so self-evident is it: the Red Cross abstains from participating, directly or indirectly, in armed conflicts; it intervenes only for strictly humanitarian reasons. This is the counterpart of the protection which is granted by the Geneva Conventions to Red Cross personnel engaged in caring for the victims of hostilities. Considered neutral by the belligerents, this personnel is obliged to act accordingly, with complete loyalty.

The second aspect—ideological neutrality—must be considered in somewhat greater depth. Because of it, the Red Cross is reserved towards any doctrine, except its own; it keeps its distance from controversies outside its purview which would compromise its universality.

Neutrality is evident first and foremost as concerns politics, both national and international. A vital necessity for the Red Cross, this attitude may not be understood by all at a time when life is becoming more and more politicized. If it were to be divided against itself in an area where opposing forces are unleashed the Red Cross would soon meet its end.

This neutrality also limits Red Cross activities in favour of peace. It must refrain from taking the side of one or another power. Indeed, even though all peoples want peace, they do not often agree on the means of constructing or maintaining it, nor even on what its nature should be. To want to have a direct effect in this area would imply entering the lists with the nations and parties. One would, for example, have to take a stand on military budgets, on the manufacturing and trade of weapons, which is, obviously, impossible. On the other hand, other institutions created specifically to defend peace are not limited in the same way, for they do not have to protect other activities and therefore have greater freedom to work.

The Proclamation mentions also religious neutrality. Since its inception, the Red Cross has been totally secular in nature. Indeed, how could it be otherwise, for it must care for men of all faiths and of none.

In conclusion, the concept of neutrality plays an important role in action in favour of peace, which it inspires, even if it restricts such action by an institution such as the Red Cross. This stems from the very nature of neutrality and is not in the least contradictory.

#### 4. INDEPENDENCE

*The Red Cross is independent. The National Societies, while auxiliaries in the humanitarian services of their governments and subject to the laws of their respective countries, must always maintain their autonomy so that they may be able at all times to act in accordance with Red Cross principles.*

The reasons for which independence is essential are so obvious that there is no need to go into them at length. In order to avoid the danger of not being itself, the Red Cross must be master of its decisions, its acts

and words; it must be free to show the path of humanity and peace. It would be inadmissible for any power to make it deviate from the route traced by its ideal alone.

This independence is also the pledge of its neutrality. Indeed, it does not imply a choice between two opposing points of view; the decision may be not to choose at all.

Independence means that an institution, like an individual, enjoys sufficient freedom. The individual is concerned with inner freedom, which can be more difficult to attain than the other. Emotions, psychological complexes, preconditioned ideas, all misguide the behaviour of human beings and, what is serious, often without their being aware of it. The first step, therefore, would be for each individual to achieve this inner freedom.<sup>1</sup>

The principle of independence is concerned with external freedom, vis-a-vis the world.

Independence must be observed in the first place as concerns national or international politics. If neutrality requires that the Red Cross refrain from mixing in internal or foreign politics, by the same token the Red Cross must impede the incursion of any political discussion into its own sphere of activities.

Independence must also be shown, however, with regard to any ideology or faith. The Red Cross must also resist any pressure of a social or economic nature. It cannot allow any class, interest group or even public opinion to force it to deviate from its goal. It cannot tolerate any interference by a financial power, and must ignore all attempts to impose orders on it by means of money.

Certainly, the Red Cross is an institution auxiliary to the public authorities and it co-operates with them by the nature of its work, and the Proclamation insists that the National Societies must always have sufficient autonomy. What is sufficient? The Proclamation tells us, logically and clearly, that autonomy is sufficient when it allows the National Societies to act at all times in accordance with Red Cross principles. If this condition is fulfilled, the Society has freedom to decide and will be faithful unto itself. It will make the voice of humanity heard, will show itself to be impartial, will be able to serve one and all.

Obviously, this also holds true in the struggle against war. Independence is indispensable for respect of Red Cross principles, but it is also

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<sup>1</sup> This is not the time to enter into the philosophical problem of freedom: is man really free to act, and to what extent are his actions predetermined? No definitive answer has been given to this question. Suffice it to observe that man believes he is free and that society is organized as though he were.

indispensable for the spirit of peace—the prerequisite of any true peace—to reign.

To this end, fundamental freedoms, now codified in human rights law, are the necessary foundation for the promotion of any ideal or social concept: freedom of expression, of assembly, of association, etc.

The enemies of peace are also the enemies of freedom: they try to impose their points of view, they do not tolerate dissenting opinions, nor even the wishes of the majority; if one gave them free rein, they would quash those who do not agree with them. In their circles, they use violence to achieve domination and the triumph of violence over the world.

## 5. VOLUNTARY SERVICE

*The Red Cross is a voluntary relief organization not prompted in any manner by a desire for gain.*

The Red Cross is a *voluntary relief* organization. In Solferino, Henry Dunant, faced with all the wounded abandoned on the battlefield due to the lack of doctors, tried to find voluntary help among the population. He succeeded, and it was the country's women who, tending victims from both camps, pronounced these words, magnificent in their simplicity, "*Tutti fratelli*"—"All brothers". Would not this be a beautiful motto for the peacemakers?

Since its inception, the work of the Red Cross was conceived as a contribution by private charity to ease the ills to which man is heir, starting with war. It relied on unselfish service and spontaneous cooperation, and seemed possible only with the combined help of numerous people of good will.

The voluntary nature of the Red Cross is directly related to the principle of humanity: for the Red Cross to be able to carry out its mission, it must enlist devoted people, those who hear the call.

In order to carry out its tasks, the Red Cross must be able to count on voluntary contributions, not only of money but also of work. It therefore appeals to "voluntary workers", persons who are not paid for their work, who will join an organization that usually has professionals also on its staff.

In the contribution of its voluntary workers, the Red Cross will find an element of enthusiasm in keeping with its ideal. And, since any service is an exchange by virtue of the relationship it creates, the voluntary worker also benefits. His work may give him a new reason for living.

However, all the members of the Red Cross, whether paid or unpaid, must form a dynamic and close working community, all of whose members are aware that they are working towards an end far beyond their own individual efforts.

The notion of *disinterested service* is also of deep significance to the Red Cross. Its golden rule is that humanitarian motivation alone must be the reason for affording relief to persons. Thus, each time a constituent member of the Red Cross is called upon to act or make a decision, it must first and foremost ask itself what is in the interest of the victims and if it serves that interest, two things that are not always easily determined; one must strive to obtain the greatest good for the greatest number of people.

The *spirit to serve* is also indissolubly linked to the Red Cross, which draws its strength from it. Without it, the Red Cross would simply not exist.

The person moved by a true spirit to serve will be happy to make others happy. Service allows the human being to free himself, to affirm himself; it is a communication.

Here again, what we have just said can inspire the defenders of peace. Have we not spoken of brotherhood, good will, voluntary work, spirit to serve, vocation, devotion, exchange and communication, of community effort, of the best interests of the greatest number? While war takes, the reflex of voluntary help—which impels one to give something of oneself—is a reflex of peace.

## 6. UNITY

*There can be only one Red Cross Society in any one country. It must be open to all. It must carry on its humanitarian work throughout its territory.*

Here, the Proclamation has grouped together three notions: unity, or unicity (there can be only one National Society in any one country); multitudinism, meaning it must be open to all; and generality of action, meaning it must extend its activities to cover the entire territory. It is the latter two notions that interest us for the purposes of this study.

*Multitudinism* requires each Society to be open to all, meaning that, as stated in greater detail in the conditions for recognition, a Red Cross Society may “not withhold membership from any of its nationals, whoever they may be, on grounds of race, sex, class, religion or political

opinions". This is again the principle of non-discrimination, non-discrimination in recruitment.

The essential point remains, naturally, non-discrimination in care and relief, which lies in the realm of objectives. Non-discrimination in recruitment lies in the realm of means.

The principle signifies that membership must not be refused on discriminatory grounds, that is to say on the basis of considerations alien to the institution, to its operation and its reputation. Of course, the Society has the right to refuse membership to individuals shown to be lacking in moral conduct or, even more, in ability.

Multitudinism, which allows for representation of all social, political and religious groups, precludes sectarianism and the partisan spirit. It is a pledge of confidence, of impartiality, both domestically and internationally; the best antidote against favouritism. This experience has special significance in activities in favour of peace, of which sectarianism and partisan spirit are the worst enemies.

In order to progress, the Red Cross must be popular and win the general public over to its cause. All nationals, from all origins and from all walks of life, must be associated with the movement, fully participate and have opportunities to rise in the ranks. Today, when internal or mixed conflicts are more frequent than international, it is vital that the Red Cross remain in operation in all parts of the territory should hostilities break out within a country's borders. For this, its personnel and above all its leaders must have the confidence of the entire population. They therefore from the start must not be tainted politically or ideologically.

Finally, as there can be only one Red Cross Society in a country, it must embrace, in its sphere of activities, the entire territory. Were it not to do so, its humanitarian work would be incomplete. This is called *generality of action*. In practice, it does not exist in many regions.

This is universality, limited geographically for each Society, but which in essence is identical to the world universality, that we shall speak of further on.

When the Red Cross is to be found everywhere, when it has reached people from all walks of life, then will it be able to fully discharge its mission, and consequently spread the spirit of peace.

In fact, in too many discussions on maintaining peace, the problem is considered only from the international point of view; that war can threaten a country from within as well as from without is sometimes forgotten. Conflicts in those cases are often much more fierce and cruel and tend to turn into international conflicts as foreign contingents inter-

vene. Pacifist action must therefore start within each nation and even within each community of each nation.

Thus, unity of the Red Cross within national borders is an element of domestic peace.

## 7. UNIVERSALITY

*The Red Cross is a world-wide institution in which all Societies have equal status and share equal responsibility and duties in helping each other.*

The wording of this text also comprises three notions: universality, equality of National Societies, and solidarity.

Let us start with *universality*. The Red Cross has a universal vocation. That means it must be open to all people in all countries. The duty to be open to all people is of vital significance to the Red Cross: in accordance with its ideal, it must open its arms to all those who ask for its assistance. The principles of humanity and non-discrimination have as a natural and necessary consequence that of universality. One of the first specific features of the Red Cross was to put into practice, in its own sphere, this universality so often dreamed of and so rarely seen.

The second requirement—to extend to all countries—is a consequence of the first: in order to reach all people, relief activities must be carried out all over the surface of the earth. The Red Cross must be able to explore and work in this large land of suffering, where people are brothers.

The institution is therefore modelled on widely divergent nationalities, crystallized by sovereignties, cultures, political systems and the spirit of peoples. It is on the national territory that the Red Cross has, by degrees, established itself. From the beginning, the National Societies were created independent and free to govern themselves. As such they are not universal, for their mission is above all national. It is the international bodies of the Red Cross which practice universality to its fullest and do not limit their activities geographically.

Second point: *the equality of National Societies*. The National Societies vary considerably from one country to another. However, these societies were created equal. Thus, equality of rights on international level compensates for inequality of size.

The equality of National Societies is a reflection of the major premise of equality of men who suffer, which the Red Cross has made its law.

Third point: *solidarity*. Although independent and with equal rights, Red Cross Societies have a duty to help each other. They therefore cultivate solidarity, each one working, to an extent commensurate with its strength, for the common good.

It is obviously the creation of the League of Red Cross Societies that gave this solidarity driving force and made it reality. When a nation is unable to cope unaided with the effects of a natural disaster or social turmoil it calls, through the League, on the other Societies, which, on a voluntary basis, bring it assistance in the form of personnel and goods. In case of an armed conflict, when a neutral intermediary is called for, the International Committee of the Red Cross steps in. Thus, the National Societies have an international role in addition to their national one. This mutual assistance is at present undergoing rapid development and has a promising future.

Solidarity in relief activities is not only valuable from the material point of view; it is also of symbolic value. When a Red Cross Society devotes itself to citizens of its country, it is faithfully performing its tasks but is not doing anything exceptional. However, when it extends its activities beyond its borders, when it frees itself of all national interest, it becomes truly "Red Cross". Solidarity in the face of suffering is akin to Henry Dunant's gesture after a great battle, and which changed something on the face of the earth.

On a more general level, the Red Cross embodies the idea of solidarity between human beings, without which they could not survive in a world which is increasingly influenced by media and communication.

By affirming their solidarity in the face of suffering, by assisting, the Red Cross tends to reduce inequalities between men and thereby decreases frustration and rancour. It helps to bring people, and therefore in the long run peoples, together.

War ignores human brotherhood. Universality brings it to the fore and reminds us that the enemy is also a human being. It is an important contribution to peace, for it requires the consent of all to become a living reality.

Thus, the symbol of humanitarianism and of the struggle for peace could be the name "Adam"—man—each letter of which is the initial in Greek of a part of the world: Anatole (East), Dysis (West), Arctos (North), Mesembria (South).

### Maxims

*Next to the verb to love, to help is the most beautiful verb in the world.*

BERTHA VON SUTTNER

*Live for others and live thereby for yourself.*

SENECA

*We must help each other, for such is the law of nature.*

LA FONTAINE

*Great dangers are magnificent in that they illuminate the brotherhood of strangers.*

VICTOR HUGO

*The perfect man is the one who is most useful to others.*

THE CORAN

*Let us help each other. The burden of our ills will thus be eased.*

FLORIAN

*The limbs of the body help each other when one is ill. Only a proud man would refuse to help his fellow.*

CATHERINE DE SIENNE

*All that brings men together is true and beautiful; all that separates them is bad and ugly.*

TOLSTOY

*There is no other way to human solidarity than the search and respect for individual dignity.*

PIERRE LECOMTE DU NOÛY



## **Respect and development of international humanitarian law**

*In the course of its meeting on 7 and 8 December 1983 the ICRC General Assembly decided to step up its efforts to promote the respect and development of international humanitarian law and of humanitarian principles.*

*The reasons for that decision and the projects intended to give it effect are outlined below.*

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In humanitarian law, the past fifteen years have been marked by a major effort of the international community to reaffirm and develop international humanitarian law applicable in armed conflicts. This effort has borne fruit. The acceptance, on 8 June 1977, of the two Protocols additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949, by a diplomatic conference convened specially for that purpose, brought written international humanitarian law as close as appears possible today to meeting the principal humanitarian requirements arising in present-day armed conflicts. At the present time, major new developments hardly seem possible.

It must be acknowledged, however, that respect for international humanitarian law in armed conflicts has not kept pace with the development of the written law. There is on the contrary a distinct increase in violations by belligerents of even the most basic rules.

This profoundly disturbing situation is clearly due to a deterioration of the international climate, manifested by growing tendency to resort to force, both between States and within States. At the same time, we are forced to recognize that many governments are tempted to regard humanitarian behaviour as secondary, thinking only in terms of their political and security requirements.

The concerns of the ICRC are not limited to armed conflicts; the situation of the victims of internal disturbances and tensions, who are

not protected by international humanitarian law, is also very precarious. Although the ICRC may undertake protective activities in such situations, under the provisions of the Statutes of the International Red Cross and in agreement with the government concerned, there is no legal instrument which adequately covers the victims' needs for protection and guarantees that the fundamental humanitarian principles will be respected.

Faced with increasing recourse to indiscriminate violence, the repeated violations of fundamental humanitarian principles and of international humanitarian law—and even the manipulation of that law for political purposes—the ICRC considers it necessary to increase its efforts to promote respect for and the development of international humanitarian law.

In concrete terms, this means that the ICRC will:

1. Seek appropriate means to strengthen respect for international humanitarian law in times of armed conflict—international or non-international.
2. Encourage States to ratify the Protocols additional to the Geneva Conventions.
3. Study the further development of certain aspects of international humanitarian law.
4. Try to define humanitarian principles applicable in situations not covered by international humanitarian law (internal disturbances or tensions).

The ICRC has set 1986 as its target for working out concrete proposals to this effect. These will be submitted for discussion and proposed for adoption at the Twenty-fifth International Red Cross Conference meeting that year in Geneva, and through the Conference to the international community.

In deciding upon this programme, the ICRC is acting under a mandate assigned to it by Article of the Statutes of the International Red Cross <sup>1</sup>. It is also acting in accordance with Resolution VI of the Twenty-fourth International Red Cross Conference (Manila, 1981) <sup>2</sup>, whose substantive section states:

“The Twenty-fourth International Red Cross Conference, ... makes a solemn appeal that the rules of international humanitarian law and the

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<sup>1</sup> Text in *International Red Cross Handbook*, 11th ed., 1971, p. 273-280, or 12th ed., 1983, p. 407-413.

<sup>2</sup> See *International Review of the Red Cross*, November-December 1981, p. 322-323.

universally recognized humanitarian principles be safeguarded at all times and in all circumstances and that the International Committee of the Red Cross be granted all the facilities necessary to discharge the humanitarian mandate confided to it by the international community.”

As it increases its efforts to promote respect for and the development of international humanitarian law, the ICRC notes with satisfaction that various governments, prominent personalities and numerous organizations share its concerns. It hopes to have the benefit of their counsel to the extent to which their specific experience can contribute to the achievement of the objectives in question, and looks forward to cooperating with them, while respecting the special field of competence of each one.

Accordingly, it will consult persons whose political or diplomatic experience promises to make an original, concrete and decisive contribution to the solution of the problems before us, as well as jurists specializing in public international law. The ICRC cannot achieve the objectives it has set for itself unless it has substantial outside support.

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The four objectives chosen by the ICRC will be set forth in greater detail below to show the course of action adopted.

1. *Seek appropriate means to strengthen respect for international humanitarian law in times of armed conflict—international or non-international.*<sup>3</sup>

The ICRC attaches paramount importance to the urgent need to ensure better respect for the international humanitarian law which is now in force. To achieve this objective, it wishes to remind the international community in general and parties to armed conflicts in particular of the conditions and means whereby respect for international humanitarian law can be ensured.

With international humanitarian law as it stands today, the main emphasis should be placed on devising original, innovative ways of using the legal means already in existence to promote and facilitate respect of the law, rather than on proposing new legal instruments and procedures.

Our analysis should therefore cover not only the mechanisms for putting the law into effect, but also and above all the causes of respect—or non-respect—for the law, and the political and sociological factors which encourage, are conducive, or conversely detrimental, to respect for humanitarian obligations.

Thus, among the questions before us are the following: How can we disseminate wider knowledge of the existing instruments of humanitarian law? How can we enhance the credibility of humanitarian law in the face of a certain conception of *realpolitik* on the one hand or a policy totally governed by ideological considerations on the other? How can we induce countries at war, and the whole international community for that matter, to make better use of the existing ways and means to strengthen respect for humanitarian law, such as, for example, Protecting Powers, enquiry procedures in the event of violations of the law, initiatives enabling the ICRC to act, *ad hoc* diplomatic interventions, etc.?

It will be necessary in this analysis to take into account the different categories of responsibilities of the States party to the instruments of humanitarian law, in particular:

1. The obligation of these States to take measures in advance which will enable them, in the event of conflict, to discharge in good faith the obligations imposed by the Conventions.
2. The duty of the Parties to a conflict to respect their obligations in relation to that conflict.
3. The duty of States not involved in a conflict to strive to obtain the respect of the belligerents for the humanitarian conventions. This is explicitly stated in Article 1 common to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 and the additional Protocol I: "The High Contracting Parties undertake to respect and to *ensure respect* for the present Convention in all circumstances." They may do so through the mechanisms provided for in the Conventions—such as that of Protecting Powers—or by other means such as bilateral diplomatic approaches or multilateral initiatives.

In drawing the attention of political leaders, and through them the governments, to the problem of obtaining greater respect for humanitarian law the ICRC is acting in accordance with Resolution VI of the Manila Conference (quoted above). It is also aware that its action responds to the desires of many governments, which are openly concerned about violations of humanitarian law.

The medium-term objective of the ICRC is to submit to the Twenty-fifth International Red Cross Conference in 1986, concrete proposals designed to strengthen respect for humanitarian law in armed conflicts—international or non-international. In order to elaborate proposals which are both innovative and realistic, it intends to request the assistance of persons outside its own circle and benefit from their experience

in political affairs and diplomacy. These specialists will be asked to express themselves in their personal capacity.

2. *Encourage States to ratify the Protocols additional to the Geneva Conventions.*

To obtain the ratification of the Protocols additional to the Geneva Conventions by a large number of States, with a view to universal acceptance of the new law of 1977, is a second objective. A number of elements in the two Protocols substantially improve the protection of war victims, in particular the protection of the civilian population from attacks and from the effects of hostilities. The advance made in 1977 demands an increased effort of the ICRC to obtain formal acceptance of this new law by the States, a precondition in gaining respect for it.

The fact is that nearly seven years after adoption of the Protocols, 38 States are Parties to Protocol I and 32 States to Protocol II (as at 1 March 1984). Ratifications continue to be registered, slowly but steadily. Thus, the States continue to show their interest in the Protocols, without a halt, but also without giving any priority to their ratification.

During these years, the ICRC has carried out millions in some sixty countries to promote ratification of the Protocols. It will persevere along the same line, concentrating its efforts on obtaining their ratification by at least the world's major powers before the Twenty-fifth International Red Cross Conference in 1986.

3. *Study the further development of certain aspects of international humanitarian law.*

Even though it is most urgent to strengthen respect for the international humanitarian law which is now in force, it is equally important to enter into the study of subjects which may lead to further development of the existing humanitarian instruments. Some domains were not even touched upon in the most recent updating of humanitarian law. In others, technological developments have been so considerable that new solutions are already needed. The ICRC has begun to study a possible development of humanitarian rules governing, among others, the following matters: maritime warfare, neutrality, lawful methods and means of combat, medical transport, improvement of identification and signalling techniques, etc., to mention only some of the situations in which better protection of human beings in times of conflict seems essential. The ICRC intends to approach specialists, and also the governments, for counsel in these fields.

In continuing such work, the ICRC does not in any way call into question the ground gained in international humanitarian law, and the need in particular for ratification of the 1977 Protocols.

The ICRC's intention to undertake this study has already been communicated to the circles concerned; the President of the ICRC referred to it in his speech in New York to the Independent Commission on International Humanitarian Issues (see the *International Review of the Red Cross*, January/February 1984). A paper dealing particularly with this subject was published in the same issue of the Review: "Some Reflections on the Future of International Humanitarian Law" by Hans-Peter Gasser.

4. *Try to define humanitarian principles applicable in situations not covered by international humanitarian law (internal disturbances or tensions).*

While the principal mandate of the ICRC is to help the victims of armed conflicts, it is also empowered to offer its services for victims of situations of violence which are not covered by the instruments of international humanitarian law, namely situations of internal disturbances or tensions. The Statutes of the International Red Cross specifically confer upon it the mandate to exercise its humanitarian activities for the victims of such situations as well (Article VI, paragraphs 5 and 6). Accordingly, in the past two decades, the ICRC has carried out these activities in an increasing number of countries, mainly for the benefit of detainees.

Human rights legislation continues to be applicable when internal disturbances and tensions occur. If force is used in such situations, they are similar to those in which international humanitarian law is applicable. The ICRC has decided to prepare a declaration drawing, of course, on human rights, but also on humanitarian law (particularly with regard to the use of force and control of the rules written in the declaration). Such a declaration will be valid even in situations in which the applicability of international humanitarian law is contested. The ICRC will consult a number of experts before drafting this declaration on humanitarian principles applicable in internal disturbances and tensions, which it may submit as a draft resolution to the Twenty-fifth International Red Cross Conference for discussion and approval.

Geneva, March 1984.

# INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

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## Two new members of the ICRC

At its meeting on 16 February 1984, the Assembly of the International Committee of the Red Cross elected Mr. Pierre Keller as a member of the Committee.

Mr. Keller was born in Zurich in 1927. He graduated in law at the University of Geneva and went on to gain the degrees of Master of Arts and Doctor of Philosophy in international relations at the University of Yale. On completing his studies, Mr. Keller spent some time at a New York bank and then several years in the Swiss diplomatic service, initially at the office of Switzerland's permanent observer at the United Nations in New York, then at the Department of Foreign Affairs in Berne, and finally in the Swiss delegation to the European Free Trade Association in Geneva. Mr. Keller returned to banking in 1961, and since 1970 has been a partner of a Geneva banking establishment, where he is now vice-chairman of the board. He is a member of the administrative council of the Swiss Association of Bankers, of the council of the International Center for Monetary and Banking Studies, and also of the International Banking Research Institute.

During its meeting of 20 October 1983, the ICRC Assembly appointed a new member of the International Committee, Mr. Raymond Probst, who will take up duties in the Committee on 1 May 1984.

A citizen of Langnau (canton of Berne), Mr. Probst was born in Geneva, in 1919. He holds a doctorate in law from Berne University. In 1942, he started work with the Federal Political Department first in the Foreign Affairs Division, and subsequently with the press section. At the end of 1947, he was transferred to the Swiss Legation in Athens and in 1952 to the economic section of the Swiss Legation in Washington. On his return to Berne at the end of 1956, he joined the legal section, then the political section of the Federal Political Department. He undertook several missions to foreign countries, especially in America and Africa. In September 1966, the Federal Council appointed him to the

post of delegate for commercial agreements, with the title of Minister Plenipotentiary, then, in 1968, that of Ambassador Plenipotentiary. He was Swiss Ambassador in the United States of America from 1976 to 1980 and, from then until March 1984, Secretary of State in the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, in Berne.

These two new members will play a valuable part in the activities of the ICRC, which takes great pleasure in welcoming them.

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### **ICRC President in Hungary**

The President of the ICRC, Mr. Alexandre Hay, went on a brief visit to Budapest, from 6 to 8 March 1984, at the invitation of the President of the Executive Committee of the Hungarian Red Cross and Vice-Chairman of the Standing Commission of the International Red Cross, Mr. János Hantos. The ICRC President was accompanied by Mr. Jacques Moreillon, member of the ICRC Directorate and Director for General Affairs, and by Mr. Thierry Germond, regional delegate for Europe.

During this visit, the President of the Hungarian Red Cross, Professor Dr. Pál Gegesi Kis, conferred on Mr. Hay the gold medal of the Hungarian Red Cross, and on Mr. Moreillon its silver medal, in recognition of outstanding services rendered to the Red Cross movement. The ceremony was attended by several persons of rank and representatives of the Hungarian authorities.

The ICRC delegation, accompanied by the President of the Executive Committee of the Hungarian Red Cross, was received also by Mr. Istvan Sarlós, Deputy Chairman of the Presidential Council of the Hungarian People's Republic.

In the talks with the Hungarian Red Cross a number of current issues relating to the Red Cross movement were discussed. Mr. Hay also gave a press conference for Hungarian journalists.

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## **Recognition of the Red Cross Society of Belize**

GENEVA, 20 March 1984

CIRCULAR NO. 529

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

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

We have the honour to inform you of the official recognition of the Belize Red Cross Society by the International Committee of the Red Cross. The recognition is effective as of 15 March 1984 and brings to 132 the number of National Society members of the International Red Cross.

Founded on 12 April 1950, the Belize Red Cross Society officially applied for recognition by the ICRC on 1 December 1983. Its request was supported by various documents, including several reports on its activities, the text of its Statutes, and a copy of the "Belize Red Cross Society Act, 1983", which recognizes it as the only Red Cross Society in the country and as a voluntary aid society auxiliary to the public authorities. The documents, which were examined jointly by the ICRC and the Secretariat of the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, showed that the ten conditions for recognition of a new National Society had been fulfilled.

The ICRC and the League have been closely observing the activities of the Belize Red Cross for several years. Representatives of both institutions, on mission to the country, have noted that the Society, which extends its activities throughout the entire territory, has a satisfactory infrastructure and is capable of operating effectively, thanks

to the over 2,000 voluntary relief workers who have already received the appropriate training. The Society carries out numerous activities: information, first aid, health education, primary medical care, social welfare services, preparation in case of natural disasters. It assists the Government in its work to help the disabled and to provide medical services.

The Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 are in force on the territory of Belize by virtue of the declaration of provisional application of these treaties which was notified by Belize to the Secretary-General of the United Nations Organization on 29 September 1982.

The President of the Belize Red Cross Society is Mr. Sydney J. Turton. The headquarters of the Society are in Belize City and the address is: The Belize Red Cross Society, P.O. Box 413, Belize City, Belize.

The International Committee of the Red Cross takes pleasure in welcoming the Belize Red Cross Society into the International Red Cross, accrediting and commending it, by the present circular, to all National Societies, whilst expressing its best wishes for its future and for the success of its humanitarian activities.

FOR THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE  
OF THE RED CROSS

*Alexandre HAY*  
*President*

## **Accession of the French Republic to Protocol II**

On 24 February 1984, the French Republic deposited with the Swiss Government an instrument of accession to the Protocol additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 relating to the protection of victims of non-international armed conflicts (Protocol II), adopted in Geneva on 8 June 1977.

In accordance with its provisions, Protocol II will enter into force for the French Republic on 24 August 1984, i.e. six months after the deposit of the instrument of accession.

The French Republic is the 32th State to become party to Protocol II. The number of States parties to Protocol I remains 38.

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## **Accession of Cameroon to the Protocols**

The Republic of Cameroon deposited with the Swiss Government, on 16 March 1984, an instrument of accession to the Protocols Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, relating to the protection of victims of international armed conflicts (Protocol I) and non-international armed conflicts (Protocol II), adopted in Geneva on 8 June 1977.

Pursuant to their provisions, the Protocols will enter into force for the Republic of Cameroon on 16 September 1984.

This is the 39th State to become party to Protocol I and the 33th to Protocol II.

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## **Accession of the Sultanate of Oman to the Protocols**

The Sultanate of Oman deposited with the Swiss Government, on 29 March 1984, two instruments of accession to the Protocols Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, relating to the protection of victims of international armed conflicts (Protocol I) and non-international armed conflicts (Protocol II), adopted in Geneva on 8 June 1977.

Pursuant to their provisions, the Protocols will enter into force for the Sultanate of Oman on 29 September 1984.

This is the 40th State to become party to Protocol I and the 34th to Protocol II.

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## *EXTERNAL ACTIVITIES*

*January-February 1984*

### **Africa**

#### **Angola**

The fate of displaced persons in Angola continued to be of grave concern to the ICRC during the first weeks of the new year, all the more so as its efforts to provide food aid to the victims of the conflict situation were seriously hindered by the danger to which transport is exposed and by the impossibility of obtaining the authorities' agreement to allow the ICRC to work according to its customary procedure. The ICRC put forward concrete proposals both to the Government (in particular during the mission by the ICRC delegate-general for Africa, at the end of 1983) and to the directors of the "Angolan Red Cross", with a view to resuming its normal assistance programmes. Unfortunately, these proposals had not produced any result by the end of February.

In consequence, the ICRC was able to distribute in that month only 147.2 tonnes of food to 16,500 persons, whereas in January it had been able to provide 559 tonnes of provisions to some 53,000 recipients.

On the medical side, ICRC technicians continued to provide assistance to the Bomba Alta (Huambo province) orthopaedic centre. The medical staff based at N'Giva, in the south of the country, provided care for patients and stocked up local dispensaries with medicines.

In January and February, the ICRC tracing offices at Luanda, N'Giva and Lubango arranged for the exchange of 100 family messages and received 45 requests to trace missing persons.

#### **Republic of South Africa**

The ICRC delegates based at Pretoria made two visits, on 12 January and 13 February, to a Cuban prisoner of war being held by South African forces.

In addition, as part of the programme for assistance to detainees' families, the ICRC delegation distributed 734 food parcels, to a value of 47,500 Swiss francs, in January and in February. The ICRC also bore

the transport costs for 115 families visiting detained relations: this aid represented a sum of nearly 29,000 Swiss francs.

### **Namibia/South West Africa**

The ICRC delegates visited 29 Angolan prisoners of war and 131 security detainees at the Mariental camp. They had access also to 7 detainees, sentenced for security reasons, at the Windhoek prison.

In addition, the ICRC continued with its programme of assistance to detainees and their families (food parcels, transport costs for visits to places of detention).

### **Zimbabwe**

The ICRC delegation at Harare provided 23 tonnes of relief (food and blankets) for some 22,500 children suffering from malnutrition in Matabeleland province.

Furthermore, an ICRC delegate, accompanied by the vice-president of the Zimbabwe Red Cross and by representatives of Catholic Missions carried out a mission in the frontier region with Mozambique, from 22 to 25 February, to evaluate the needs of displaced persons.

### **Uganda**

Mr Jean-Marc Bornet, ICRC delegate-general for Africa, went on mission to Uganda from 20 to 26 January. During his stay at Kampala, Mr Bornet was received by the President of the Republic, Mr Milton Obote, and he had talks with the Minister of the Interior, Mr Kirunda; he also took part in a meeting of representatives of organizations providing emergency aid to Uganda.

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On 7 January, eleven members of the Red Cross, working in Uganda as part of the emergency action being carried out by the ICRC in collaboration with the Ugandan Red Cross and the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, were abducted by unidentified armed men while carrying out an evaluation mission north-west of Kampala. They were subsequently released (nine on 9 January and the two others on 24 January) and the assistance programmes that had been temporarily suspended following this incident resumed on 18 January.

Up to the end of February, almost 3,000 tonnes of relief, consisting essentially of foodstuffs, was distributed to some 110,000 persons in 24 distribution centres.

On the medical side, seven teams (one of which being specially responsible for vaccinations) made regular visits to some twenty displaced persons camps: they gave 39,200 consultations, arranged the transfer of 65 patients to hospital and carried out almost 2,500 vaccinations. In addition, in collaboration with the Save the Children Fund and Oxfam, the ICRC established six special feeding centres able to receive around 500 children per day. Finally, a Swedish Red Cross epidemiologist was sent out to Uganda to work in collaboration with the medical teams in the field. His principal task was to analyze the various factors likely to exert an influence on the incidence and course of diseases found among the camp population.

In January and February, the ICRC and Ugandan Red Cross tracing office dealing with displaced persons received 1,226 requests to trace missing persons; it received 1,603 requests to reunite families (of which it was able to fulfil 182) and it arranged for the exchange of 1,679 family messages; in addition, with the prior authorization of the government, it carried out 527 transfers of persons.

On 6 February, ICRC delegates resumed their protection activities in civilian prisons and police stations, that had been suspended since March 1982. Two teams, each made up of two delegates and a doctor, visited ten civilian prisons (including the Jinja, Luzira and Murchison Bay prisons), and eight police stations. They saw a total of 4,670 detainees, of whom they registered 2,291. The ICRC delegates collected 1,300 family messages during their visits.

## Chad

On 9 January, the head of the ICRC delegation at N'Djamena was received by President Hissène Habré. This meeting provided an opportunity to review ICRC activities in Chad, in particular those dealing with protection. These started at the beginning of March, with the visit made by ICRC delegates to the N'Djamena house of detention.

In the north of the country, ICRC delegates based at Bardaï, principal town of the Tibesti district, undertook a second series of visits to prisoners detained in the towns of the Yebbi Bou and Zoumri regions. Blankets and various relief items were handed to the prisoners during these visits. ICRC delegates also visited two members of the "Médecins sans frontières" organization, captured during the fighting between the national armed forces of Chad (FANT—"Forces armées nationales tchadiennes") and the army of the GUNT ("Gouvernement d'union nationale du Tchad"), to whom they delivered family messages.

At the Bardai hospital and in the Yebbi Bou, Zouar and Wanofou regions, the ICRC doctor-delegates started a programme for the training of health personnel in hygiene, preventive medicine and mother and child care.

### **Ethiopia**

Between 23 and 25 January, a team of three ICRC delegates, an ICRC doctor and a representative of the Ethiopian Red Cross undertook an evaluation mission in the provinces of Eritrea and Tigre, where they met the regional authorities and the provincial heads of the National Red Cross Society. The object of this mission was to finalize plans for the joint ICRC and Ethiopian Red Cross relief operation to be carried out in the next few months for civilian victims of the drought and of the troubles prevailing in these regions. In addition, following several evaluation missions carried out from Asmara and Addis Ababa, assistance programmes were started at Rama, Axoum, Adoua and in the Shire district. Furthermore, an ICRC nurse arrived at Mekele at the end of February to help the regional branch of the Ethiopian Red Cross in its hygiene and nutrition programmes for displaced persons.

The food assistance provided by the ICRC in Ethiopia amounted in January and February to nearly 887 tonnes, representing a value of 1.4 million Swiss francs; some 40,500 persons received aid.

The Chiry Ballo nutritional centre in the Genale (Bale) region reopened on 13 February under the direction of an ICRC nurse, after being closed for a month because of the dangerous situation.

ICRC delegates delivered medicines, dressings and equipment for blood transfusion to the Asmara blood bank, the "Eastern Command" hospital, the Keren, Rama and Jijiga hospitals, and the infirmary of the Harar prison. Medical assistance was also provided to the Tigre and Gondar dispensaries.

In addition, the delegate in Geneva responsible for the ICRC orthopaedic programme went to Ethiopia in February to review ICRC action for civilian amputees being treated at the Asmara and Harar rehabilitation centres.

### **Somalia**

The ICRC delegation at Mogadishu distributed food relief, mainly fruit and vegetables, to Ethiopian prisoners of war and a Cuban prisoner of war in Somalia.

The ICRC delegate, accompanied by a representative of the Somali Red Crescent and a delegate of the League of Red Cross and Red Cres-

cent Societies, went on mission to Garowe, Burao and Hargeisa to establish contact with the provincial governors and with the local branches of the Somali Red Crescent, with a view to distributing family messages from Somali prisoners of war who had been visited by the ICRC in Ethiopia.

### **Sudan**

Throughout 1983, ICRC delegates continued their activities for the refugees of various origins in the frontier regions of the Sudanese territory. In particular, they carried out agency activities, i.e. enquiries to trace persons separated from their next-of-kin, exchange of family messages, etc. For this purpose, a network of tracing offices, to undertake local enquiries and transmit messages, is functioning in the regions where refugees are settled.

From 6 to 11 March 1984, Mr Jean-David Chappuis, deputy delegate-general for Africa, visited Sudan to make a general assessment of ICRC activities for the refugees. During his stay he met officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and of the legal department of the armed forces, in order to draw up a programme to disseminate knowledge of international humanitarian law among the Sudanese armed forces.

### **Rwanda**

Following a series of visits in 1983 to twelve prisons in Rwanda, the ICRC decided to undertake and to finance a programme for improving sanitation in three of the prisons. An ICRC sanitation engineer therefore went to Rwanda in February to get the necessary work under way; he will supervise progress in the coming months.

### **Lomé regional delegation**

The ICRC regional delegate for West Africa, based at Lomé (Togo), spent from 2 to 10 January in *Ghana* where he took part in a training seminar for members of the Red Cross of Ghana.

From 18 to 24 January, two delegates from the regional delegation went to *Niger* where they met officials of the Red Cross of Niger, to whom they explained the possibilities for ICRC action to promote the development of a National Society.

These same delegates, in *Upper Volta* from 25 to 31 January, had talks with high level government officials on the dissemination of knowledge of the Geneva Conventions among the armed forces, the police force and the public at large. The ICRC delegates also met representa-

tives of the Red Cross of Upper Volta, with whom they studied a general plan of activity, in which the ICRC would participate by assisting in training and dissemination.

The delegate at the Lomé regional delegation with particular responsibility for dissemination activities worked in *Benin* in conjunction with the National Red Cross to draw up programmes to make Red Cross activities and the essential rules of humanitarian law more widely known. These programmes started in February in the Benin media (television, radio, press).

### **Missions to Mauritania and Tunisia**

Mr Carlos Bauverd, ICRC regional delegate for North Africa and the Arab peninsula, was in the Islamic Republic of *Mauritania*, from 19 to 24 February, and conferred with representatives of the Government and of the Mauritanian Red Crescent. During his visit to Nouakchott, Mr Bauverd delivered 50 glass eyes to the hospital and visited the orthopaedic centre that had been established with the help of ICRC financing.

The ICRC regional delegate also visited *Tunisia* (26-28 February), where he made contact with representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and of the Tunisian Red Crescent.

### **Appeal for funds**

In January, the ICRC drew up the projects and budgets for its protection and assistance programmes on the African continent for the period from 1 January to 31 December 1984. In a document entitled "Africa Report and Appeal No 10", addressed to donors who provide financial support for its actions, the ICRC gave an account of its activities in 1983 and a summary of its 1984 objectives and it appealed for 118,260,000 Swiss francs. Taking into account firm promises for contributions in cash and in kind, and the balance left over from the previous year, the ICRC still needs 67,870,000 Swiss francs to continue its humanitarian action in Africa in 1984.

## **Latin America**

### **Missions from Geneva**

Mr André Pasquier, ICRC delegate-general for Latin America and the Caribbean went on a mission from 12 to 17 February that took him to Uruguay and to Argentina.

In *Uruguay*, the ICRC delegate-general was received by the President of the Republic, General Alvarez. He had talks also with the Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Commander of the Armed Forces, the Chief of the Joint General Staff and the President of the Supreme Military Tribunal, with whom he discussed the visits made by the ICRC, in 1983, to places of detention in the country.

In *Argentina*, the ICRC delegate-general had talks with Dr Troccoli, Minister of the Interior, Dr Gossi, Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs, and with a member of the national commission on missing persons.

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Two ICRC delegates to the armed forces went on mission to Latin America, from 5 February to 7 March.

In *Panama*, they attended the Twenty-fourth Inter-American Bar Association Conference to whose commission on military law they presented a practical exercise based on a situation of non-international armed conflict; they also took part in a round table where they delivered a paper on the treatment of prisoners of war.

In *Honduras*, one of these ICRC delegates gave a lecture on the law of war to ten military prosecutors, including the chief prosecutor of the Honduran army.

In *Bolivia*, the same delegate met the Commander-in-chief of the Bolivian army with whom he discussed the teaching of the law of war to the armed forces.

### **El Salvador**

Continuing with their protection activities in El Salvador in January and February, ICRC delegates made 342 visits to places of detention under the authority of the Ministry of Justice or of the security forces, and to some military barracks; they saw and registered 167 new detainees. In addition, on 4 and 5 January, 136 persons (civilians and members of the armed forces) captured by troops of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) were released to ICRC delegates who escorted them back to their barracks, under the protection of the Red Cross emblem.

The ICRC tracing offices at San Salvador, San Miguel and Santa Ana received 410 requests to trace persons missing or presumed detained. In addition, they continued to receive several hundred visitors per month coming to enquire about the fate of relatives.

ICRC delegates and Salvadoran Red Cross relief workers distributed some 500 tonnes of food in the central zone of the country and almost

325 tonnes in the eastern regions; this assistance reached some 45,000 persons.

The ICRC medical teams based at San Salvador and San Miguel continued to visit villages where displaced persons had taken shelter. They gave consultations, arranged for the transfer of the sick to hospital and provided medicines and medical equipment to some health posts and civilian hospitals, mainly in the eastern zone, the worst affected by the fighting.

ICRC delegates gave several conferences, in army and security forces barracks, on the essential rules of humanitarian law and the principles of the Red Cross.

### **Nicaragua**

Between 24 January and 13 February, a six-member ICRC team (including a doctor and two nurses) visited the Tipitapa prison where 2,376 detainees were being held. The visits were made in accordance with customary ICRC procedure.

Furthermore, the Managua delegation continued its assistance for detainees' families: it distributed 16.2 tonnes of relief (mainly food parcels), to a value of 22,700 Swiss francs.

Continuing its assistance programme in favour of displaced civilian populations, the ICRC also forwarded provisions and blankets to Puerto Cabezas (Zelaya department) and Ocotal (Madriz department).

The ICRC Tracing Agency office at Managua continued to transmit family messages between Nicaraguan refugees in Honduras and their families in Nicaragua.

### **Panama**

Two ICRC delegates attached to the San José (Costa Rica) regional delegation took part in a course for instructors of junior members of Central American Red Cross Societies. The course was held in Panama by the Red Cross Society of Panama, from 19 to 25 February.

### **Peru**

From 25 January to the end of February, ICRC delegates again visited places of detention under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Justice (they visited 18 detention places), and places under jurisdiction of the Ministry of the Interior (visits to 8 places). They saw a total of 816 security detainees.

## Argentina

From 27 February to 2 March, two ICRC delegates visited the Devoto prison where they saw 90 detainees; they had interviews without witnesses with 86 of them.

## Appeal for funds

In January, the ICRC launched an appeal for 25,760,000 Swiss francs, necessary for the continuation of its humanitarian action in 1984 in the countries of Central America, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Belize, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico and Panama.

## Asia

### Missions from Geneva

At the invitation of the Indonesian Red Cross, Mr Richard Pestalozzi, member of the ICRC, Mr Harald Huber, honorary member of the Committee, and Mr Henrik Beer, honorary secretary general of the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, were in *Indonesia*, from 4 to 20 February. During their visit, they had talks, in particular, with Mr Soehanda Ijas, secretary general of the National Society; they visited various local branches of the Indonesian Red Cross as well as the ICRC delegation at Djakarta.

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In the first fortnight of January, Mr Jean-Pierre Hocké, Director of ICRC Operational Activities, visited *Thailand*, *Kampuchea* and *Viet Nam*, where he met representatives of the authorities and of the National Societies.

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Mr Jean de Courten, ICRC delegate-general for Asia and Oceania, was in *Pakistan* from 9 to 17 February to discuss with the ICRC delegation at Peshawar and the sub-delegation at Quetta the assistance and protection action for victims of the Afghan conflict. Mr de Courten also had talks with the Pakistani authorities and with representatives of Afghan resistance movements.

### **Conflict in Afghanistan**

Two Soviet soldiers who had been captured by an Afghan opposition movement were transferred to Switzerland by the ICRC, one on 28 October 1983 and the other on 26 February 1984, pursuant to the agreement for internment in a third country concluded by all the parties concerned. This brought to nine the number of Soviet internees in Switzerland (a tenth internee fled in July 1983 to the Federal Republic of Germany where he requested asylum). The Soviet internees in Switzerland receive regular visits from ICRC delegates.

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The ICRC delegation in Pakistan continued to render medical assistance to Afghans who fell victim to the fighting in their country. In January 234 war casualties, and 74 in February, were admitted to the ICRC hospitals in Peshawar and Quetta. The two teams working in Peshawar (one from the Finnish Red Cross, the other from the ICRC) performed 539 operations and treated 1,614 out-patients during this period. The Italian Red Cross team in Quetta performed 178 operations and treated 358 out-patients.

The first aid teams from the Pakistan Red Crescent, spread out along the Afghan border, gave first aid treatment to 184 wounded and conveyed 103 others to the ICRC surgical hospital. These hospitals continued to provide the teams with medical supplies and medicines to allow them to treat less serious cases on the spot.

The orthopaedic workshop in Peshawar produced 78 prostheses. The centre for paraplegics admitted 7 new patients in January and February.

During these two months, 39 Afghans took courses in first aid given by ICRC personnel.

### **Thailand**

In January and February, activities continued in the ICRC hospitals in Khao-I-Dang and Kab Cherng. Four teams, comprising personnel made available by the Red Cross Societies of Canada, Denmark, Finland, Italy, Norway, New Zealand and Sweden, treated and operated on war wounded and other emergency cases evacuated from the Khmer-Thai border. During this period, the Khao-I-Dang hospital admitted 326 new patients (including 104 war casualties) and Kab Cherng admitted 178 (including 33 war wounded.)

The ICRC mobile team of one doctor and five nurses, made available by the Red Cross Societies of France and Switzerland, covered the

region south of Aranyaprathet, treating the population in the camps. Following an agreement between the ICRC and UNBRO (United Nations Border Relief Office) the latter will assume the activities of the team as from March 1984.

Medical assistance provided by the ICRC to the hospitals in Khao-I-Dang and Kab Cherng, to the prison infirmary in Aranyaprathet and to the border camp dispensaries, totalled approximately 187,000 Swiss francs. The ICRC, furthermore, distributed various forms of relief in the camps (food, paramedical equipment, material for the construction of shelters), which amounted to 81,700 Swiss francs.

The ICRC Tracing Agency in Bangkok received 1,548 requests to inquire into the whereabouts of missing persons. Moreover, it transferred 198 persons from one camp to another on the Khmer-Thai border, reunited 57 families, and transmitted 2,778 letters between the refugees and their families in other camps or abroad.

### **Kampuchea**

The ICRC continued to distribute medical supplies to several hospitals in Phnom Penh. It also continued to render logistic support to the medical teams from the Red Cross Societies of France, Sweden and Switzerland, which are working, respectively, in Phnom Penh, Kompong Chhnang and Kompong Cham, under the terms of agreements with the local Red Cross.

In January and February, weekly flights between Bangkok, Ho Chi Minh City and Phnom Penh allowed the ICRC to send more than two tonnes of relief and 86 passengers, acting either on its own behalf or for other humanitarian organizations working in Kampuchea.

### **Laos**

The ICRC delegate in Hanoi undertook a mission to Laos from the 6 to 16 February. There she met the directors of the National Society and representatives of the Ministries of Health and of Foreign Affairs.

### **Regional Delegation in New Delhi**

At the beginning of February, two ICRC delegates, members of the regional delegation in New Delhi, travelled to *Nepal*, where they attended the annual conference of the National Red Cross Society. They addressed the conference and showed a film on the Red Cross. The delegates were received by the President of the Nepalese Red Cross and

also met representatives of the Ministries of Defence, of Justice and of Education.

On 29 February, these same delegates went to *Burma* where they held talks with representatives of the authorities and of the National Red Cross Society.

### **Appeals for funds**

In January, the ICRC appealed for 26,060,000 Swiss francs, in order to finance its 1984 action in Kampuchea and Thailand. With an available carry over from 1983, the ICRC needed some 19,240,000 Swiss francs to continue its activities related to the Kampuchean conflict through 31 December 1984.

The ICRC launched another appeal to obtain 15,080,000 Swiss francs with which to finance its humanitarian activities to aid the victims of the conflict in Afghanistan for the period 1 January to 31 December 1984. With the balance from the previous year, the ICRC needed 14,188,000 Swiss francs to pursue its activities throughout the year.

## **Middle East**

### **Conflict between Iran and Iraq**

#### **Second ICRC Appeal**

On 15 February, the ICRC published in Geneva the following press release:

*In view of the repeated and serious breaches of international humanitarian law by the Republic of Iraq and the Islamic Republic of Iran, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) appealed on 9 May 1983 to all the States party to the Geneva Conventions to take steps to ensure that the Conventions were respected.*

*Over nine months after that first appeal, ICRC delegates report continuing grave breaches which not only endanger the life and freedom of the tens of thousands of victims of the conflict but flout the fundamental principles of international law.*

*The ICRC wishes the States to take up in their dealings with the two belligerents the humanitarian issues it has brought to their attention, and to that effect it submitted a new memorandum to the States party to the Geneva Convention on 13 February 1984.*

*In the Islamic Republic of Iran, the ICRC, following the first memorandum, was able to carry out some visits to prisoner-of-war camps and register about 10,000 new prisoners of war. However, its activities for the Iraqi prisoners of war were again stopped on 27 July 1983, leaving 50,000 prisoners without protection. The ICRC does not at present know the number of prisoners or their whereabouts, identity or state of health; it cannot draw up lists of prisoners for repatriation on medical grounds; nor can it supervise the distribution of Red Cross messages to families and prisoners.*

*Numerous observations and concurring information have led the ICRC to be concerned about the plight of the prisoners and the true motives for the authorities' prevention of ICRC activities. In particular, the ICRC has observed that specific categories of prisoners, such as senior officers, are systematically hidden from it. Some of the prisoners have been dealt harsh sentences of which the ICRC was not informed and which remain unexplained. Some of the camps have been the scene of serious incidents, and some Iraqi prisoners of war registered and visited on several occasions by ICRC delegates in the camps in the Islamic Republic of Iran have later been reported "killed in action".*

*In general, ideological and political pressure, the use of intimidation in a "re-education" process, and affronts to the honour and dignity of the prisoners of war have been continuous and indeed seem to be increasing, with the aim of turning the prisoners against their own government and of obstructing the work of ICRC delegates. The ICRC has made the renewal of its activities conditional on the cessation of such practices, and to that end has frequently approached the highest authorities of the Islamic Republic of Iran with detailed arguments. At present, the ICRC has not received a satisfactory response.*

*ICRC attempts to provide Iraqi civilian refugees in Iran, in particular Iraqi Kurds, with relief supplies have met with failure, yet the ICRC knows that these refugees are in need of food and medical relief.*

*In the Republic of Iraq, ICRC delegates have visited each month the 7,300 Iranian prisoners of war in conformity with the rules of the Third Geneva Convention. In principle, captured prisoners are registered by the ICRC within a reasonable period of time. As a rule, albeit at times with considerable delays, the system for exchanging Red Cross*

*messages between prisoners and families functions smoothly. In the prisoner-of-war camps, the ICRC has observed improvements in the material conditions of internment and in disciplinary treatment. On 29 January 1984, 190 Iranian prisoners of war, 87 of them seriously wounded or gravely ill, were repatriated.*

*However, a large number of prisoners, some of whom have been in captivity since the beginning of the conflict, are still hidden from the ICRC, detained in secret and deprived of their most basic rights. Lists bearing their names and attesting to their existence have been regularly submitted to the authorities by the ICRC. A few score of them were finally visited by the ICRC and registered, but the problem remains and a satisfactory solution must be urgently found.*

*Tens of thousands of Iranian civilians from Khuzestan and Kurdistan have been displaced during the conflict to Iraqi territory. The Iraqi authorities recently allowed regular ICRC visits to these civilians, and considerable effort has been made to improve the conditions in which they live.*

*Over one thousand civilians, including elderly persons and women, have been registered by the ICRC since the beginning of the conflict in prisoner-of-war camps. Several hundred have been successively repatriated, but an overall solution to the problem still remains to be found.*

*In violation of the laws and customs of war, and in particular of the essential principle that military targets must be distinguished from civilian persons and objects, the Iraqi armed forces have continued to bomb Iranian civilian zones. The result was loss of human life on a large scale, and widespread destruction of strictly civilian objects.*

*The ICRC has requested the States to actively support its efforts in the interests exclusively of the victims of the conflict. It is convinced that the States, conscious of what is at stake, will have the desire and determination to act in accordance with the commitment they made of their own volition to respect and ensure respect for the Geneva Conventions.*

### **Activities of the delegations**

Since the outbreak of hostilities in September 1980, and in accordance with the Geneva Conventions to which Iraq and Iran adhered, in 1956 and 1957 respectively, the ICRC has registered and visited 41,052 prisoners of war in Iran and 7,376 prisoners of war in Iraq. In July 1983, however, visits to the prisoners of war had to be suspended in Iran, as the ICRC was no longer able to perform its work of protection satisfactorily. They did, nonetheless, continue in Iraq.

On 29 January, 190 Iranian prisoners were handed over to the ICRC by representatives of the Iraqi authorities at the Ankara airport (Turkey). Acting as intermediaries, the ICRC delegates turned these persons (among whom there were 87 gravely wounded or sick, and some women and elderly) over to representatives of the Iranian authorities, who repatriated them. The prisoners were accompanied from Baghdad to Tehran by ICRC delegates and doctors. The infrastructure and personnel needed at the Ankara airport were made available by the Turkish authorities and Red Crescent.

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In January and February, the ICRC delegates in Iraq visited each month more than 7,300 Iranian prisoners of war in Anbar, Ramadi and Mosul. During the same period, 74 new prisoners of war were registered; capture cards were completed and sent to the Iranian authorities so that the families could be notified. Moreover, ICRC delegates visited camps and villages in Iraq which house displaced populations of Kurd and Khuzistan origin.

The ICRC forwarded 305,295 family messages between Iraq and Iran during this same period. The ICRC delegations in Baghdad and Tehran, moreover, received 1,265 requests to trace persons reported missing.

### **Lebanon**

Following the confrontations in Beirut and the bombing in the Bekaa at the end of 1983, a relative calm reigned in Lebanon at the beginning of the year. The lull was short-lived. Bloody battles broke out on 2 February in the suburb south of the capital and in the surrounding mountains, causing numerous casualties among the civilian population. Not even the Red Cross was spared from the bombing, which spread to all sectors of Beirut. The ICRC delegation and the headquarters of the Lebanese Red Cross were shelled. A score of ICRC vehicles were destroyed, damaged or stolen. The Lebanese Red Cross lost all its sixteen ambulances and a dozen other vehicles as well. The "green line", cutting Beirut in two, as in 1976, once again appeared. Emergency aid had to be given to thousands of persons who were either cut off between the lines of fire or who had fled their homes. In a single week four rescue workers lost their lives when their ambulance was hit by shells and a rescue worker from the Lebanese Red Cross was killed during the confrontations. The ICRC appealed to the belligerents to respect the Red Cross emblem. It also called for a cease-fire so that it could help the victims.

Due to the extreme violence of the fighting, the ICRC delegates had to wait until the 8th of February before they could undertake a survey of the hospitals and dispensaries treating the wounded. They then supplied several hospitals in Beirut and in the southern suburb with 500 units of blood and an equal number of bottles of oxygen. On 12 February, an ICRC convoy crossed the "green line", bringing 140 tonnes of food and medicines to West Beirut. Two days later an ICRC plane, laden with various relief and medicines, landed at Beirut airport which had been closed to traffic since the beginning of the month.

In all, the volume of relief distributed throughout Lebanon (Beirut and the surrounding area, the Chouf, the High-Metn, Sidon and Tripoli) reached 451 tonnes in January and 476 tonnes in February. Medical assistance for those two months was valued at 533,500 Swiss francs. In February, some 150,000 persons received medical and material assistance from the ICRC.

The ICRC, moreover, delivered an ambulance and 1,311 units of blood and 100 units of plasma to the Sidon branch of the Lebanese Red Cross. The blood and plasma had been provided by the National Societies of Finland, France, Italy, Norway and Switzerland.

The Ansar camp, which had been closed on 24 November 1983 by the Israeli army after the release of the prisoners, was reopened on 12 December. As from 27 December, the weekly visits by ICRC delegates accompanied by a doctor were renewed. By the end of February they had registered 297 prisoners.

ICRC delegates again made their weekly visits to the Nabatiyeh prison from 28 December until all 40 prisoners had been transferred to the Ansar camp on 22 January.

In view of the numerous arrests among the civilian population in southern Lebanon, the ICRC delegates continued their efforts to extend to these persons protection in accordance with the Fourth Geneva Convention. They also continued their regular visits to the Palestinian camps near Sidon and Tyre.

The three Israeli prisoners of war detained by the Syrian authorities were visited on 31 December and 20 February.

The 291 Syrian prisoners of war detained in Israel were visited on 19 January and 20 and 21 February.

Pursuant to an agreement between the ICRC and the various parties to the Lebanese conflict, ICRC delegates visited, in a manner consistent with the usual procedure, a number of persons detained by the "Lebanese Forces" and the "Amal" and "PSP" movements.

The ICRC Tracing Agency in Lebanon continued exchanging messages between members of dispersed families, seeking missing persons and assisting in reuniting and evacuating families. In February, it transmitted 5,441 family messages, both in Lebanon and abroad, for displaced persons, detainees and their families.

### **Israel and the Occupied Territories**

Mr Jacques Moreillon, Director of General Affairs, headed an ICRC mission to Tel Aviv, from 28 January to 2 February. He was accompanied by Mr Jean Hoefliger, ICRC delegate-general for the Middle East. The purpose of the mission was to discuss with the Israeli authorities the problems encountered by the ICRC both in southern Lebanon and in the territories occupied by Israel since 1967. The ICRC representatives conferred with Prime Minister Itshak Shamir and Defence Minister Moshe Arens. They also had a working luncheon with the usual ICRC contacts in the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

### **Appeals for funds**

In January, the ICRC launched an appeal for 38,940,000 Swiss francs, to finance its 1984 programmes in Lebanon. With a carry-over from the previous year, the ICRC needed 32,840,000 Swiss francs in order to continue its activities in Lebanon through 31 December 1984.

The ICRC also launched an appeal for 8,950,000 Swiss francs to cover its activities related to the Iraq-Iran conflict for the period 1 January through 31 December 1984. Given the deficit of the preceding year, the ICRC needed 10,580,000 Swiss francs in order to pursue its activities in 1984.

## **Europe and North America**

### **Missions by the Head of the Information Department**

Mr. Alain Modoux, Head of the ICRC's Information Department, was in the *United States*, from 5 to 7 February, at the invitation of the American Red Cross. In Washington, Mr Modoux addressed an audience of fifty prominent persons (representatives of the State Department, members of the staff of Congressmen and Senators, journalists, representatives of universities, and representatives of the Ford Foundation). His account of current ICRC activities and concerns was followed by a

number of answers to questions on the ICRC's commitments throughout the world and issues of principle and international humanitarian law.

Mr Modoux took the opportunity of being in Washington to examine with his colleagues in the American Red Cross ways to strengthen co-operation between the two institutions in the field of information and public relations. He also visited the National Society's audiovisual centre in order, inter alia, to determine arrangements for co-operation with the ICRC's Audiovisual Communication Division.

In response to the invitation of Mr Baltiyski, President of the Alliance of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies of the USSR, Mr Modoux visited the *Soviet Union* from 22 to 29 February. He was accompanied by the ICRC regional delegate for Eastern Europe. The main purpose of the mission was to carry out an on-the-spot study of the Alliance's work in the sphere of information and to examine the possibilities for enhancing co-operation between the two institutions in that respect. In addition to meetings with representatives of the Alliance's Central Committee in Moscow, the ICRC delegates were also welcomed by the Red Cross of the Leningrad region, and by the Red Crescent of Uzbekistan, in Tashkent.

Mr Modoux's visit to the USSR was also marked by various discussions with representatives of the Alliance's Foreign Affairs Department. These talks focused primarily on the ICRC's activities throughout the world, its financing problems, and on the Red Cross contribution to peace.

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## The Red Cross in the tundra

*The Red Cross has proved time and again that it has no racial, historical or cultural bounds and that its humanitarian principles and ideals hold true on all continents and at all latitudes. This is borne out yet again by the following account of Red Cross work.*

*The article below is adapted from a text that recently appeared in the Review of the Soviet Red Cross; a translation was sent to us, at our request, by the Alliance of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies of the USSR, whom we thank warmly for their kind co-operation.*

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To enable the reader to fully appreciate the life and work of a Red Cross medical team and Red Cross volunteers beyond the polar circle, a brief description must be given of the region in which they carry out their activities.

The Autonomous Territory of Chukotska covers the north-eastern extremity of the Asian continent, which is also the north-eastern extremity of the USSR. It is a vast territory of 700,000 square kilometres straddling the polar circle. The ground is always frozen and for most of the year is covered with deep snow. Temperatures of minus 55° centigrade and winds of around 180 kilometres an hour frequently prevail. The few inhabitants belong to various branches of the Eskimo and Asiatic-Siberian races. Some are nomadic and live from raising reindeer, great herds roaming the vast empty spaces of the tundra. Another group of the inhabitants are settled in the few localities of the territory, such as Anadyr, the capital, on the Bering Sea, or Pevek, on the coast of the Arctic Ocean. Before the use of motors and aircraft, it took six months of travelling with dog-sledges, to get from the one to the other. At the beginning of this century, the indigenous population of the region did

not know how to write and had no written language. They had no idea of medicine and medical care; they were unceasingly threatened by isolation, hunger and disease.

Since then, within the space of two generations, the situation has considerably changed. The discovery of various minerals and their progressive exploitation, in spite of enormous difficulties due to the climate and the geographic situation, have contributed to the development of the territory and raised the living standard of the inhabitants. A mining industry has been established; new towns and villages have sprung up. Now, the town of Bilibin has a nuclear power station; the administrative capitale, Anadyr, has its own television studio and installations which allow it to receive and relay Moscow television broadcasts. Planes and helicopters are used for travel, in spite of the severe weather conditions. Education has made great progress: a high proportion (70-80%) of the population not only know how to read and write but also have a good level of education.

The health service has also advanced rapidly. In 1924, the Ministry of Health and the Russian Red Cross sent the first medical missions to evaluate the health situation in the tundra and make the first plans to set up a local health service. Today, there are 257 health centres of various kinds in the territory, working to care for the sick, prevent epidemics and teach the population about health and hygiene. There are some 45 doctors, 127 nursing staff and 165 beds in medical establishments for 10,000 inhabitants. The central hospital has 305 beds and is divided into different sections (surgery, rheumatology, neurology, gynaecology, paediatrics, etc.). It can give up to 600-700 out-patient consultations. In addition, the medical personnel make frequent rounds of the country, visiting even the most remote villages and the encampments of the reindeer-raising nomads of the tundra to provide medical examination and preventive care (inoculations and vaccinations). Planes and helicopters are available for use in emergencies.

All these achievements are due to the national health service. Faithful to its role as an auxiliary to the public authorities, the Red Cross, which has a branch in the autonomous territory, is simultaneously playing an important part in maintaining the health of the inhabitants, thanks to the work, intelligence and devotion of its volunteer members.

The Red Cross has recruited members in each collective farm, in the remote villages and the tent encampments of the reindeer herders. These are often women who, in addition to their domestic duties, are capable if need be of giving first aid to the wounded and caring for the sick, because they have been trained in first aid. As they are generally also

responsible for maintaining radio contact with the neighbouring localities and encampments, and have to call them on schedule several times a day, they can if necessary consult a doctor long-distance and even ask him to come to the aid of the patient, depending upon the gravity of the case. Then planes or helicopters are evidently indispensable to cover the tremendous distances involved, braving the bad weather. Red Cross women volunteers also have the tasks of teaching young people what they themselves have learned of first aid, how to treat minor everyday injuries, how to prevent frostbite, not to drink water from dubious sources, how to bandage a cut or put on a splint...

Now that there are a lot of schools, children are taught first aid as well. First they are taught about personal hygiene and how to keep their dwellings clean; then they are progressively taught how to bandage a wound, stop a haemorrhage, set a fractured limb, and give first aid for frostbite. These courses are given by the school doctor and the Red Cross, and as an incentive for the children, competitions are held each year and prizes are awarded to the winners. When they grow up, these children will become members of Red Cross health centres, and of the teams of Red Cross volunteers which now meet in all localities and enterprises in the USSR. Of course, all these teams do the same work, with the same attention and the same devotion, but those living in the Autonomous Territory of Chukotska do so under extremely rigorous conditions, due to the climate and the great distances between one locality to another. Another serious difficulty that must be taken into account is that much of the population is in almost constant migration, following the herds of reindeer, and this precludes any continuity in care.

One proof of the success of Red Cross teaching is the voluntary donation of blood by the inhabitants of the tundra. Unknown a little while ago, the giving of blood has become commonplace, an evidence of the generosity, the strong feeling of solidarity and the devotion of the people of the far north in freely helping their neighbours. In the beginning, many of them could not give their blood because they suffered from certain diseases, but now, thanks to more widespread medical care, these difficulties have been eliminated. On 8 May, the annual Red Cross day, awards, medals and decorations are handed to deserving blood donors, as in other regions of the USSR. The result of all these efforts is remarkable: there are indigenous blood donors in all the rural districts of the autonomous territory, and the number of local donors is usually sufficient to meet the need for transfusions. In the town of Anadyr, 93 percent of the total quantity of blood used for transfusions is collected locally and free of charge. In view of the geographic situation, the living

conditions and the climate of this region, these facts cannot be over-emphasized.

Another Red Cross project which is successfully being carried out little by little is to give a wider public an elementary knowledge of hygiene and care of the sick. To do so, all women who have to spend a period of convalescence in hospital are given basic courses on home nursing. Their knowledge may subsequently prove useful to them, their families and their neighbours. Not only can they help an invalid to keep his house or tent clean and tidy and to prepare his food, but are also able to perform certain tasks prescribed by the doctor, for example, to change a bandage or apply a cupping glass or poultice. It is reckoned that over a twelve-month period, in the Provideniya district alone, such simple training was given to around 700 persons.

Finally, mention must be made of another contribution by Red Cross volunteers. They are the people who take charge of cleaning roads, courtyards and public places in the townships, villages and encampments. In a territory where there is no highway department and where the inhabitants tend to be negligent, this is no small task and it contributes, perhaps as much as the doctors' work, to the prevention of epidemics. It is a fact that the region has not had an outbreak of infectious disease for several years, and this humble work carried out by Red Cross volunteers certainly has great social value.

Such a vigorous, active and efficient Red Cross, working in a remote area with a terrible climate and arduous living conditions, cannot but be admired.

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## BOOKS AND REVIEWS

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### GROTIUS ET LA DOCTRINE DE LA GUERRE JUSTE <sup>1</sup>

To commemorate the four-hundredth anniversary of the birth of Grotius, the Graduate Institute of International Studies in Geneva, the Henry Dunant Institute and the departments of law history and international law at the University of Geneva Faculty of Law organized, in November 1983, a colloquium on Hugo de Groot (or Grotius, 1583-1645) and his work.

At the same time, Mr. Peter Haggenmacher, a research assistant at the Graduate Institute, published a handsome and weighty tome entitled "Grotius et la doctrine de la guerre juste".

The historical significance of the work of Grotius in international law is a subject of controversy: some think that he is the "father of the law of nations", while others maintain that his famous work, "The law of war and peace", published in 1625, is little more than a neat summary of his precursors' writings. Mr. Haggenmacher reread the work of Grotius and attempted to define its place in the context of the scholastic and humanistic doctrine of war; he reassessed Grotius' internationalist thinking and its significance for the development of the law of nations as an independent legal system.

With this general description, we wished to bring this book to the attention of our readers interested in international humanitarian law.

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<sup>1</sup> Peter Haggenmacher: *Grotius et la doctrine de la guerre juste*. Publications of the Graduate Institute of International Studies, Geneva. Presses universitaires de France, Paris, December 1983. 682 pp.

## ADDRESSES OF NATIONAL SOCIETIES

- AFGHANISTAN (Democratic Republic) — Afghan Red Crescent, Puli Artan, *Kabul*.
- PEOPLE'S SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA — Albanian Red Cross, 35, Rruga e Barrikadave, *Tirana*.
- ALGERIA (Democratic and People's Republic) — Algerian Red Crescent Society, 15 bis, Boulevard Mohamed V, *Algiers*.
- ARGENTINA — Argentine Red Cross, H. Yrigoyen 2068, 1089 *Buenos Aires*.
- AUSTRALIA — Australian Red Cross, 206, Clarendon Street, *East Melbourne 3002*.
- AUSTRIA — Austrian Red Cross, 3 Gusshausstrasse, Postfach 39, *Vienna 4*.
- BAHAMAS — Bahamas Red Cross Society, P.O. Box N 91, *Nassau*.
- BAHRAIN — Bahrain Red Crescent Society, P.O. Box 882, *Manama*.
- BANGLADESH — Bangladesh Red Cross Society, 34, Bangabandhu Avenue, *Dhaka 2*.
- PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BENIN — Red Cross of Benin, B.P. 1, *Porto Novo*.
- BELGIUM — Belgian Red Cross, 98 Chaussée de Vleurgat, 1050 *Brussels*.
- BELIZE — The Belize Red Cross Society, P.O. Box 413, *Belize-City*.
- BOLIVIA — Bolivian Red Cross, Avenida Simón Bolívar, 1515, *La Paz*.
- BOTSWANA — Botswana Red Cross Society, Independence Avenue, P.O. Box 485, *Gaborone*.
- BRAZIL — Brazilian Red Cross, Praça Cruz Vermelha 10-12, *Rio de Janeiro*.
- BULGARIA — Bulgarian Red Cross, 1, Boul. Birusov, *Sofia 27*.
- BURMA (Socialist Republic of the Union of) — Burma Red Cross, 42 Strand Road, Red Cross Building, *Rangoon*.
- BURUNDI — Red Cross Society of Burundi, rue du Marché 3, P.O. Box 324, *Bujumbura*.
- CAMEROON — Cameroon Red Cross Society, rue Henry-Dunant, P.O.B. 631, *Yaoundé*.
- CANADA — Canadian Red Cross, 95 Wellesley Street East, *Toronto, Ontario, M4Y 1H6*.
- CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC — Central African Red Cross, B.P. 1428, *Bangui*.
- CHILE — Chilean Red Cross, Avenida Santa María 0150, Correo 21, Casilla 246V., *Santiago*.
- CHINA (People's Republic) — Red Cross Society of China, 53 Kanmien Hutung, *Peking*.
- COLOMBIA — Colombian Red Cross, Avenida 68, No. 66-31, Apartado Aéreo 11-10, *Bogotá D.E.*
- CONGO, PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF THE — Croix-Rouge Congolaise, place de la Paix, *Brazzaville*.
- COSTA RICA — Costa Rican Red Cross, Calle 14, Avenida 8, Apartado 1025, *San José*.
- CUBA — Cuban Red Cross, Calle 23 No. 201 esq. N. Vedado, *Havana*.
- CZECHOSLOVAKIA — Czechoslovak Red Cross, Thunovska 18, 118 04 *Prague 1*.
- DENMARK — Danish Red Cross, Dag Hammarskjöld's Allé 28, Postboks 2600, 2100 København Ø.
- DOMINICAN REPUBLIC — Dominican Red Cross, Apartado Postal 1293, *Santo Domingo*.
- ECUADOR — Ecuadorian Red Cross, Calle de la Cruz Roja y Avenida Colombia, 118, *Quito*.
- EGYPT (Arab Republic of) — Egyptian Red Crescent Society, 29, El-Galaa Street, *Cairo*.
- EL SALVADOR — El Salvador Red Cross, 17 Av. Norte y 7a. Calle Poniente, Centro de Gobierno, *San Salvador*, Apartado Postal 2672.
- ETHIOPIA — Ethiopian Red Cross, Rass Desta Damtew Avenue, *Addis Ababa*.
- FIJI — Fiji Red Cross Society, 193 Rodwell Road, P.O. Box 569, *Suva*.
- FINLAND — Finnish Red Cross, Tehtaankatu 1 A, Box 168, 00141 *Helsinki 14/15*.
- FRANCE — French Red Cross, 17 rue Quentin Bauchart, F-75384 *Paris CEDEX 08*.
- GAMBIA — The Gambia Red Cross Society, P.O. Box 472, *Banjul*.
- GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC — German Red Cross in the German Democratic Republic, Kaitzerstrasse 2, DDR 801 *Dresden 1*.
- GERMANY, FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF — German Red Cross in the Federal Republic of Germany, Friedrich-Ebert-Allee 71, 5300, *Bonn 1*, Postfach 1460 (D.B.R.).
- GHANA — Ghana Red Cross, National Headquarters, Ministries Annex A3, P.O. Box 835, *Accra*.
- GREECE — Hellenic Red Cross, rue Lycavittou 1, *Athens 135*.
- GUATEMALA — Guatemalan Red Cross, 3ª Calle 8-40, Zona 1, *Ciudad de Guatemala*.
- GUYANA — Guyana Red Cross, P.O. Box 351, Eve Leary, *Georgetown*.
- HAITI — Haiti Red Cross, Place des Nations Unies, B.P. 1337, *Port-au-Prince*.
- HONDURAS — Honduran Red Cross, 7a Calle, 1a y 2a Avenidas, *Comayagüela, D.M.*
- HUNGARY — Hungarian Red Cross, V. Arany János utca 31, *Budapest V*. Mail Add.: 1367 *Budapest 5*, Pf. 121.
- ICELAND — Icelandic Red Cross, Nóatúni 21, 105 *Reykjavik*.
- INDIA — Indian Red Cross, 1 Red Cross Road, *New Delhi 110001*.
- INDONESIA — Indonesian Red Cross, Jalan Abdul Muis 66, P.O. Box 2009, *Djakarta*.
- IRAN — Iranian Red Crescent, Avenue Ostad Nejatollahi, Carrefour Ayatollah Taleghani, *Teheran*.
- IRAQ — Iraqi Red Crescent, Al-Mansour, *Baghdad*.
- IRELAND — Irish Red Cross, 16 Merrion Square, *Dublin 2*.
- ITALY — Italian Red Cross, 12 via Toscana, *Rome*.
- IVORY COAST — Ivory Coast Red Cross Society, B.P. 1244, *Abidjan*.
- JAMAICA — Jamaica Red Cross Society, 76 Arnold Road, *Kingston 5*.
- JAPAN — Japanese Red Cross, 1-3 Shiba-Daimon 1-chome, Minato-Ku, *Tokyo 105*.
- JORDAN — Jordan National Red Crescent Society, P.O. Box 10 001, *Amman*.
- KENYA — Kenya Red Cross Society, St. John's Gate, P.O. Box 40712, *Nairobi*.
- KOREA, DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF — Red Cross Society of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, *Pyongyang*.
- KOREA, REPUBLIC OF — The Republic of Korea National Red Cross, 32-3Ka Nam San-Dong, *Seoul*.
- KUWAIT — Kuwait Red Crescent Society, P.O. Box 1350, *Kuwait*.
- LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC — Lao Red Cross, P.B. 650, *Vientiane*.
- LEBANON — Lebanese Red Cross, rue Spears, *Beirut*.
- LESOTHO — Lesotho Red Cross Society, P.O. Box 366, *Maseru*.

- LIBERIA** — Liberian National Red Cross, National Headquarters, 107 Lynch Street, P.O. Box 226, *Monrovia*.
- LIBYAN ARAB JAMAHIRIYA** — Libyan Arab Red Crescent, P.O. Box 541, *Benghazi*.
- LIECHTENSTEIN** — Liechtenstein Red Cross, *Vaduz*.
- LUXEMBOURG** — Luxembourg Red Cross, Parc de la Ville, C.P. 404, *Luxembourg*.
- MALAGASY REPUBLIC** — Red Cross Society of the Malagasy Republic, rue Patrice Lumumba, *Antananarivo*.
- MALAWI** — Malawi Red Cross, Hall Road, *Blantyre* (P.O. Box 30080, Chichiri, *Blantyre* 3).
- MALAYSIA** — Malaysian Red Crescent Society, National HQ, No. 32 Jalan Nipah off Jalan Ampang, *Kuala Lumpur*.
- MALI** — Mali Red Cross, B.P. 280, *Bamako*.
- MAURITANIA** — Mauritanian Red Crescent Society, B.P. 344, Avenue Gamal Abdel Nasser, *Nouakchott*.
- MAURITIUS** — Mauritius Red Cross, Ste Thérèse Street, *Curepipe*.
- MEXICO** — Mexican Red Cross, Avenida Ejército Nacional n° 1032, *México 10 D.F.*
- MONACO** — Red Cross of Monaco, 27 boul. de Suisse, *Monte Carlo*.
- MONGOLIA** — Red Cross Society of the Mongolian People's Republic, Central Post Office, Post Box 537, *Ulan Bator*.
- MOROCCO** — Moroccan Red Crescent, B.P. 189, *Rabat*.
- NEPAL** — Nepal Red Cross Society, Tahachal, P.B. 217, *Kathmandu*.
- NETHERLANDS** — Netherlands Red Cross, P.O.B. 30427, *2500 GK The Hague*.
- NEW ZEALAND** — New Zealand Red Cross, Red Cross House, 14 Hill Street, *Wellington 1*. (P.O. Box 12-140, *Wellington North*.)
- NICARAGUA** — Nicaragua Red Cross, D.N. Apartado 3279, *Managua*.
- NIGER** — Red Cross Society of Niger, B.P. 386, *Niamey*.
- NIGERIA** — Nigerian Red Cross Society, Eko Aketa Close, off St. Gregory Rd., P.O. Box 764, *Lagos*.
- NORWAY** — Norwegian Red Cross, Drammensveien 20 A, *Oslo 2*, Mail add.: *Postboks 2333, Solli, Oslo 2*.
- PAKISTAN** — Pakistan Red Crescent Society, National Headquarters, 169, Sarwar Road, *Rawalpindi*.
- PAPUA NEW GUINEA** — Red Cross of Papua New Guinea, P.O. Box 6545, *Boroko*.
- PANAMA** — Panamanian Red Cross, Apartado Postal 668, Zona 1, *Panamá*.
- PARAGUAY** — Paraguayan Red Cross, Brasil 216, *Asunción*.
- PERU** — Peruvian Red Cross, Av. Camino del Inca y Nazarenas, Urb. Las Gardenias - Surco - Apartado 1534, *Lima*.
- PHILIPPINES** — Philippine National Red Cross, Bonifacio Drive, Port Area, P.O. Box 280, *Manila 2803*.
- POLAND** — Polish Red Cross, Mokotowska 14, *Warsaw*.
- PORTUGAL** — Portuguese Red Cross, Jardim 9 Abril, 1 a 5, *Lisbon 3*.
- QATAR** — Qatar Red Crescent Society, P.O. Box 5449, *Doha*.
- ROMANIA** — Red Cross of the Socialist Republic of Romania, Strada Biserica Amzei 29, *Bucarest*.
- RWANDA** — Rwanda Red Cross, B.P. 425, *Kigali*.
- SAN MARINO** — San Marino Red Cross, Palais gouvernemental, *San Marino*.
- SAUDI ARABIA** — Saudi Arabian Red Crescent, *Riyadh*.
- SENEGAL** — Senegalese Red Cross Society, Bd Franklin-Roosevelt, P.O.B. 299, *Dakar*.
- SIERRA LEONE** — Sierra Leone Red Cross Society, 6A Liverpool Street, P.O.B. 427, *Freetown*.
- SINGAPORE** — Singapore Red Cross Society, 15 Penang Lane, *Singapore 0923*.
- SOMALIA (DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC)** — Somali Red Crescent Society, P.O. Box 937, *Mogadishu*.
- SOUTH AFRICA** — South African Red Cross, 77, de Villiers Street, P.O.B. 8726, *Johannesburg 2000*.
- SPAIN** — Spanish Red Cross, Eduardo Dato 16, *Madrid 10*.
- SRI LANKA (Dem. Soc. Rep. of)** — Sri Lanka Red Cross Society, 106 Dharmapala Mawatha, *Colombo 7*.
- SUDAN** — Sudanese Red Crescent, P.O. Box 235, *Khartoum*.
- SWAZILAND** — Baphalali Swaziland Red Cross Society, P.O. Box 377, *Mbabane*.
- SWEDEN** — Swedish Red Cross, Fack, S-104 40 *Stockholm 14*.
- SWITZERLAND** — Swiss Red Cross, Rainmattstr. 10, B.P. 2699, *3001 Berne*.
- SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC** — Syrian Red Crescent, Bd Mahdi Ben Barake, *Damascus*.
- TANZANIA** — Tanzania Red Cross Society, Upanga Road, P.O.B. 1133, *Dar es Salaam*.
- THAILAND** — Thai Red Cross Society, Paribatra Building, Chulalongkorn Memorial Hospital, *Bangkok*.
- TOGO** — Togolese Red Cross Society, 51 rue Boko Soga, P.O. Box 655, *Lomé*.
- TONGA** — Tonga Red Cross Society, P.O. Box 456, *Nuku'alofa*.
- TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO** — Trinidad and Tobago Red Cross Society, Wrightson Road West, P.O. Box 357, *Port of Spain, Trinidad, West Indies*.
- TUNISIA** — Tunisian Red Crescent, 19 rue d'Angleterre, *Tunis*.
- TURKEY** — Turkish Red Crescent, Yenisehir, *Ankara*.
- UGANDA** — Uganda Red Cross, Nabunya Road, P.O. Box 494, *Kampala*.
- UNITED KINGDOM** — British Red Cross, 9 Grosvenor Crescent, *London, SW1X 7EJ*.
- 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, D.C. 20006*.
- U.S.S.R.** — Alliance of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, I. Tcheremushkinskii proezd 5, *Moscow 117036*.
- VENEZUELA** — Venezuelan Red Cross, Avenida Andrés Bello No. 4, Apart. 3185, *Caracas*.
- VIET NAM, SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF** — Red Cross of Viet Nam, 68 rue Bà-Triêu, *Hanoi*.
- YEMEN (Arab Republic)** — Yemen Red Crescent Society, P.O. Box 1471, *Sana'a*.
- YUGOSLAVIA** — Red Cross of Yugoslavia, Simina ulica broj 19, *Belgrade*.
- REPUBLIC OF ZAIRE** — Red Cross of the Republic of Zaire, 41 av. de la Justice, B.P. 1712, *Kinshasa*.
- ZAMBIA** — Zambia Red Cross, P.O. Box R.W.1, 2837 Brentwood Drive, *Lusaka*.
- ZIMBABWE** — The Zimbabwe Red Cross Society, P.O. Box 1406, *Harare*.