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# international review of the red cross



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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.

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- recording the international activities of the Red Cross, mainly for reference purpose, as a chronicle of events,

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

# Can the Red Cross contribute to safeguarding peace? <sup>1</sup>

by Hans Haug

*The enemy, our real enemy, is not the neighbouring country; it is hunger, cold, poverty, ignorance, routine, superstition, prejudice.*

Henry DUNANT

## I

Can the Red Cross help to maintain peace and should it not, alongside its humanitarian role, also fulfil a mission of peace? This is far from being a new consideration, raised by recent developments in the peace movement and by demonstrations in favour of peace.

Whether the Red Cross, by its very nature, is a factor for peace; whether its humanitarian work should finally result in eliminating war, are questions as old as the idea of the Red Cross itself. Very early on, Henry Dunant declared that it was not enough to relieve the suffering of victims of war but that war itself should be banned.

The Geneva Convention of 1864 for the amelioration of the condition of the wounded and sick of armed forces in the field was seen by Gustave Moynier as a decisive step towards the absolute condemnation of war. The foundation of the League of Red Cross Societies in 1919 doubly dedicated the Red Cross to work for peace: the Red Cross should perform its humanitarian work not only in times of war but also in times of peace and its humanitarian activities, carried out beyond all frontiers, should contribute to the improvement of living conditions

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<sup>1</sup> Paper read on 22 September 1983 at Kiel to the Schleswig-Holstein section of the German Red Cross and the Swiss colony of Kiel.

of human beings, to understanding between peoples and, consequently, to the consolidation of peace. This dedication of the Red Cross to work for peace was so well recognized and supported in governmental quarters that in the Covenant of the League of Nations member countries agreed to encourage and promote the establishment and co-operation of "national Red Cross organizations having as purposes the improvement of health, the prevention of disease and the mitigation of suffering throughout the world".

Since the Second World War, all the International Red Cross Conferences have adopted resolutions on the theme "The Red Cross and peace". The texts adopted stress not only the importance of the work and activities of the Red Cross in creating and maintaining a climate favourable to peace, both within individual nations and in relations between nations, but they also call on governments to settle their differences by peaceful means, to renounce threats and the use of force in international relations and to bring about a general disarmament under effective international control.

The "Fundamental Principles of the Red Cross", proclaimed during the 1965 International Red Cross Conference in Vienna assume particular importance because they assign to the Red Cross the mission of "*preventing* and alleviating human suffering wherever it may be found" and of fostering "mutual understanding, friendship, co-operation and *lasting peace* amongst all peoples". As long ago as 1961, during its Board of Governors meeting in Prague, the League of Red Cross Societies decided—on the motion of Professor A. von Albertini, then President of the Swiss Red Cross—to clearly affirm the dedication of the work of the Red Cross to the cause of peace, by featuring beside the original device "Inter arma caritas" the message "Per humanitatem ad pacem".

Nothing demonstrates more clearly the relationship that exists between the spirit of the Red Cross and the spirit of peace than the awarding of the Nobel Peace Prize to Henry Dunant in 1901, to the International Committee of the Red Cross in 1917 and 1944, and jointly to the ICRC and the League of Red Cross Societies in 1963, on the occasion of the Centenary of the Red Cross.

## II

Before studying more closely and determining with greater precision in what ways the Red Cross can contribute to maintaining peace and where the limits of the Red Cross peace mission should be drawn, we must attempt to define what we mean and understand when we talk

about peace. What does the word "peace" mean when linked with the activities of the Red Cross?

In current usage, the word "peace" is applied especially to the absence of armed conflicts between States or within States. Peace therefore means the absence of war and the refusal to resort to force of arms to resolve disputes. For some time now there has been a tendency to add to this classic concept of peace, often considered as "negative", a definition which brings out the *positive aspects* more clearly: peace does not signify only the absence of armed conflict but also a situation which offers all people *living conditions in keeping with the dignity of the human being*, a situation in which justice and liberty prevail or—to be more comprehensive and more precise—a situation in which *human rights* are ensured and respected without discrimination. Such a situation would not only enable armed conflicts between nations, or between parties of a single nation, to be eliminated, but it would open up a reign of trust, co-operation and even fraternal relations among men and nations. The former concept of "state of peace" as opposed to "state of war" would assume a new and wider dimension.

If, in the following considerations, I turn my attention to this global and positive concept of peace, it is because modern international law already includes it and gives it a concrete and ever-increasingly clear meaning. Contemporary international law does not limit itself to the prevention of war in the traditional meaning of this idea, or to ensuring mere coexistence of nations, but it aims for and encourages—as an international law of co-operation—economic and social development, "better standards of life in larger freedom" (Preamble to the UN Charter) and, finally, the universal application of human rights to all human beings. Now, a positive concept of peace is also a solid basis for fruitful Red Cross activity in favour of peace; for even if the Red Cross does not have the power to avert and directly prevent war, it can act to enable human beings to benefit from living conditions worthy of them and to ensure that human dignity is respected. The Red Cross can also help to spread understanding and trust and—despite all differences and opposition—to develop friendly relations.

### III

Starting from this positive concept of peace, we should now examine the possibilities open to the Red Cross—the ICRC, the National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and their world-wide federation, the League—to work for peace. This humanitarian work with its many

different facets must be carried out within the framework of the principles of the Red Cross.

Certainly, *protection and assistance for victims of armed conflicts* retains a preponderant place. This work is based on the four Geneva Conventions of 1949, supplemented in 1977 by two additional Protocols. Responsibility for this protection and assistance work rests with the ICRC, but also with the National Societies of the countries concerned or of the countries called upon to help. The humanitarian work of the Red Cross which is carried out in times of war, that is to say when every effort is made to cause injury to the enemy and, if possible, to destroy him by the most powerful means, consists of preventing and relieving the suffering of the victims and of guaranteeing that human dignity is respected. Every care must be taken to ensure that the wounded and sick, prisoners and internees, civilians taking no part in military activities and the population of occupied territories are spared, protected and treated humanely. Here, it is essential to adhere strictly to the principle of *impartiality*: to provide aid and protection without preference or prejudice due to nationality, membership of a belligerent party, race, religion, social status or political opinion. It is in this spirit of unconditional humanity that the ICRC has operated, or endeavours to operate, in the course of current conflicts, for example in Lebanon, in the war between Iran and Iraq, in Nicaragua and El Salvador. National Red Cross Societies have worked in the same spirit of humanity and with the same respect for the principle of impartiality; as an example, I would mention the work of the Nicaraguan Red Cross before and after the overthrow of the Somoza regime, and the activity of the Lebanese Red Cross in their strife-torn country.

It has been said that the Geneva Conventions and the Red Cross create *oases of humanity* in armed conflict. These oases of humanity—a field hospital, a hospital ship, an artificial limb centre for the disabled, a prisoner or refugee camp—can also constitute the *seeds of peace*. Max Huber, the great president of the ICRC during the Second World War, considered that “the indirect peace mission of the Red Cross” consisted of “maintaining by charitable action the idea of humanity in a period of inhumanity” and of setting up “amid the collapse of so many human relations, a spiritual bridge to peace”.<sup>1</sup>

The adoption in 1977 of the two Protocols additional to the Geneva Conventions, the drafts of which were drawn up by the ICRC, marked an important step towards restricting the use of violence in wars. The

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<sup>1</sup> Quotation from « Der Rotkreuzgedanke », *Vermischte Schriften*, Vol. IV, Zurich, 1957.

Protocol relative to international armed conflicts reiterates the famous phrase in The Hague Convention of 1907 respecting the Laws and Customs of War on Land, stipulating that belligerents do not have an unlimited choice of means to injure the enemy. The Protocol expressly prohibits the use of weapons, projectiles, materials and methods of warfare which could cause "superfluous injury". The two Protocols, including the one dealing with non-international armed conflicts, prohibit attacks against civilian population and civilian property essential to survival; the force of arms can only be directed against military objectives. In case of operations against military objectives, all necessary precautionary measures must be taken to avoid injuring civilians and civilian property, or at least to ensure that the damage inflicted on civilians and civilian property is not excessive in relation to the concrete and direct military advantage expected. The Protocol relative to international armed conflicts also prohibits "indiscriminate attacks", that is to say attacks using methods or means of combat which cannot be directed at a specific military objective or whose effects cannot be limited and which, in consequence, reach military objectives and civilians or civilian property indiscriminately. Finally, in the conduct of war, the Protocol forbids the use of methods or means intended to cause or likely to cause widespread, long-term and severe damage to the natural environment.

Obviously, the Geneva Conventions and their additional Protocols correspond to the deepest-felt aspirations of mankind, and, although their provisions are concerned only with war and are applicable only in case of war, they are opposed to the *spirit of war*, to the spirit and the desire for destruction. The main point of these provisions, those of the 1977 Protocol in particular, is that they stand in the way of "total war", of the use of weapons of wide-scale destruction and the risk of universal annihilation. However, this barrier can provide effective protection only if the Protocols are ratified by all States, not only by the small or medium-size powers, but also by the great and the super-powers. It is here that the Red Cross, the ICRC and the National Societies have a role to play because they cannot simply abandon to oblivion or ineffectualness the agreements they have helped to hammer out. The Red Cross must do everything in its power to persuade large numbers of States to ratify the 1977 Protocols, thereby conferring on them a binding nature.

\*

One of the most difficult, and at the same time the most important missions that the ICRC has endeavoured to perform for decades has been to improve conditions for *political detainees*. Up to the present time, delegates from the Committee have visited, in some 80 countries, over 300,000 persons deprived of freedom because of their political activities or opinions, and have provided reports on their situation. Although the Committee lacks the backing of any international law to help them in carrying out this task, and although it often meets with opposition on the grounds of national security, it has been able to achieve in numerous cases—thanks mainly to its attitude and reputation for neutrality and discretion—an improvement in the conditions of detention and the treatment of detainees, and the cessation of inhumane practices, such as torture. This is an important contribution to the defence of human rights and dignity and it is also—indirectly—a contribution to peace.

\*

It is not only the activities of the Red Cross on behalf of war victims or political detainees that should be considered as a contribution to peace, but also its work outside the fields of battle and the areas of troubles, *its everyday humanitarian and welfare work* carried out by the National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. It is difficult to describe all that these Societies do in a few words: they help the wounded and sick, they look after disabled or elderly persons and needy children or adolescents. Nearly all National Societies organize courses, teaching first aid and care for the sick, and many of them devote part of their time to working in blood transfusion centres or training nursing staff. Relief in cases of natural disasters or epidemics forms part of the basic tasks of the Red Cross. In the developing countries, the National Societies have to cope with overwhelming needs and tasks in their struggle to alleviate the misery and poverty of millions upon millions of human beings.

The everyday and routine work of the Red Cross contributes to the maintenance of peace by improving the living conditions of many people, particularly the underprivileged or those exposed to danger, by remedying acute or chronic distress. In large sections of the community, the Red Cross arouses and encourages the desire to help and to serve, resulting in gifts of money or in kind, in blood donations and in aid of the most widely varying kinds. Here, too, it is vitally important to uphold the ideal of the Red Cross and to make sure that *the institution*

*is at the service of all and open to all.* This is the way to bring together men of different nationalities and backgrounds, with different customs and ideas, different views of life and the world, and to give them a chance to begin understanding one another.

\*

The *worldwide solidarity* which the Red Cross practises is extremely important. It shows itself in a particularly impressive way during large-scale and sudden *catastrophes* such as earthquakes, floods and typhoons, when the Red Cross receives for its relief operations large donations of all kinds from governments and the public never-ending generosity. Among recent examples, mention should be made of the relief and reconstruction operations in aid of the victims of the catastrophic earthquakes in Guatemala in 1976, and in Algeria and Italy in 1980. Recently, too, aid to refugees has been considerably increased, both in the countries first receiving them in Asia and Africa, and in the countries of asylum, in North America or Europe. Although such relief operations create problems and even give rise to tension, they strengthen the bonds that exist between men and peoples who are strangers to one another, forming stepping stones to bring them together, to foster mutual understanding and thus contribute to peace.

Even more today than in the past, solidarity should also manifest itself in *co-operation for development*. In many countries the population explosion, economic and technical backwardness, unemployment, inadequacies of public services, catastrophes and conflicts cause massive poverty and misery which people living in comfortable circumstances should do all they can to remedy. The disparities between developing countries and industrialized nations, or between the different strata of the population in both, do not represent merely different standards of living but a yawning chasm between the superfluous abundance of wealth and the deadly deficiencies of extreme poverty, a chasm which must be reduced not only for humanitarian and economic reasons but also in the interest of peace.

For the League of Red Cross Societies and its most affluent and fortunate members, the first priority is to assist National Societies in developing countries, who are for the most part poor, by co-operating with them, by supporting them with advice and material aid so that they become increasingly able themselves to shoulder the considerable humanitarian and social tasks of the future.

## IV

While it is important for the Red Cross to know the ways and means at its disposal to perform efficient work in aid of peace, it is just as important for it to know its *limits*. These limits are not due only to its own lack of power; they are above all imposed on it by its *neutrality*, a fundamental principle of the Red Cross. This stipulates that, in order to gain and 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. The principle of neutrality does not apply only to the ICRC but also to the National Societies and the League. It goes well beyond the principle of neutrality of States, as recognized in international law. Nothing actually prevents a neutral State, even if it applies permanent neutrality, from taking a definite stance in political or ideological disputes.

Respect for the principle of neutrality within the Red Cross organizations cannot be taken for granted, mainly because numerous Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies do not enjoy sufficient *independence* to enable them to take decisions and act without any government influence. During Red Cross Conferences, one sometimes has the impression that some Societies are spokesmen for their governments. Another reason for questioning the neutrality of the Red Cross can be detected in the desire of some Societies or eminent individuals to open new outlets for the work of the Red Cross for peace, and to add direct action to indirect influence.

During the World Red Cross Conference on Peace held in Belgrade in 1975, on the instigation of the Yugoslav Red Cross, delegates discussed a "Programme of Action of the Red Cross as a Factor of Peace", a programme which was subsequently finalized. In the spirit of this plan, the *direct contribution* of the Red Cross to peace should consist of efforts to prevent hostilities, to bring about the conclusion of armistices or even the settlement of conflicts. This programme also envisages increased co-operation with the United Nations, both in humanitarian matters and in the preparation of documents with a view to condemning aggression, racial discrimination, apartheid and detention on political grounds.

There is no question of our stating that the Red Cross should never, under any circumstances, take direct action for peace. The ICRC has already participated in approaches made to obtain a suspension of hostilities or an armistice. Red Cross Conferences have adopted resolutions encouraging the Committee to endeavour to avert the threat of

an armed conflict, or to help put an end to hostilities. But it should be emphasized that, as a general rule, direct action by the Red Cross, including the ICRC, is bound by strict limits and that the Red Cross should, first and foremost, beware of interfering in trials of strength between States, of intervening in the search for political solutions to conflicts, of associating in the condemnation of illegal, criminal or indeed any kind of acts or behaviour. That, in this respect, the strict observance of the principle of neutrality is an absolute necessity, is for the obvious and readily understandable reason that this is the only way to preserve the unity of the worldwide community of the Red Cross and to ensure it continues to enjoy the confidence of all. Unity and confidence are indeed the conditions that enable the Red Cross to perform its humanitarian mission, a mission which, as we have tried to demonstrate, should be regarded also as a contribution to peace.<sup>1</sup>

The need for imposing a limit on the (direct) action of the Red Cross for peace is clearly apparent from two recent examples which shed light on several aspects. One of these examples concerns disarmament and the other the promotion of human rights.

The Red Cross has concerned itself for a long time, and quite rightly so, with the *problems of disarmament and arms control*. On several occasions, it has appealed to the community of States. On 23 May 1978, for instance, to the United Nations General Assembly, convened in extraordinary session to discuss the problems of disarmament, the ICRC launched an appeal denouncing the fact that arsenals had accumulated a potential for destruction such as could annihilate humanity and transform our planet into a desert. The Committee urged the Powers to establish a climate of confidence which would make it possible to curb the arms build-up and the massive delivery of weapons to all parts of the world. The ICRC stigmatized the waste of resources urgently needed in the fight against poverty, particularly in the developing countries, by using them to make weapons.

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<sup>1</sup> In his *Final Report on the Study of the Re-appraisal of the Role of the Red Cross* (Geneva, 1975) Donald D. Tansley writes: "Such action as the naming of aggressors and injustices will not be viewed as non-political, impartial, neutral and humanitarian, regardless of the good intentions of those advocating that type of Red Cross action for peace. Any such action can only damage and probably destroy the useful protection and assistance activity..." (page 40). In its comments on the *Report on the Re-appraisal of the Role of the Red Cross*, the ICRC expresses the following view: "By entering the arena of conflicting interests and opinions which divide the world and align peoples against one another, the Red Cross would be rushing headlong towards its own destruction. However slightly it might venture upon this slippery path, it would not be able to stop." (*International Review of the Red Cross*, March-April 1978, p. 82).

During the second extraordinary session of the United Nations General Assembly on disarmament, the Red Cross launched another appeal. This time it came from the International Red Cross, bearing the date 14 May 1982 and the signatures of the presidents of the ICRC, the League of Red Cross Societies and the Standing Commission. In this appeal, peace is described as an active process of co-operation between peoples and States based on liberty, independence, national sovereignty, equality, respect for human rights and an equitable distribution of resources. The appeal stresses the need to settle conflicts peaceably and to fulfil international obligations. Governments are urged to put an end to the arms race and to take all the necessary measures to reach general and complete disarmament under efficient international control.

Sceptical though one may be as to the effectiveness of such appeals and proclamations, they are nevertheless necessary in that they comply with the requirements of ethics and reason. They also correspond to the principles of the Red Cross and, particularly, to the principle of neutrality because they avoid taking any definite position for or against anyone in disputes on measures concerning arms limitation. During the International Red Cross Conference at Bucharest in 1977, the Red Cross was therefore not able to back up the Soviet Union's motion condemning the neutron bomb, any more than it could today censure the stationing in Europe of medium-range missiles, for example by approving the "zero option". If it took this step, it would immediately be accused of taking sides and infringing its rule of neutrality.

Recently, voices have been raised within the Red Cross movement asking that the National Societies, the ICRC and the League undertake to promote not only knowledge and implementation of international humanitarian law applicable in armed conflicts, but also *human rights*. It has been pointed out, quite rightly, that the conventions relating to human rights are derived from the same source as the Geneva Conventions and their additional Protocols, namely the concept of human dignity, and that they seek to achieve the same end, the protection of the human being. It has been emphasized that respect for human rights would constitute a valid criterion for an order based on justice and that the application of human rights without any discrimination would be the foundation of peace within nations and among nations.

Even if these demands merit attention and support, the limits to be observed are, here too, vitally important. The conventions on human rights encompass a multitude of legal notions—the right to liberty, right to judicial guarantees, political rights, economic rights, social and

cultural rights—which are the very bed-rock of the general social and political order. In addition, the concept of human rights is different in the East from what it is in the West, and in the North from the South. Individualistic concepts frequently conflict with collectivist or nationalistic concepts. If the Red Cross intended to apply itself to human rights in all the complexity of its many facets, it would have to involve itself in political, social and ideological controversies and this would lead it to violate the principle of neutrality and to jeopardize its unity.

However, there do exist human rights which are within the province and competence of the Red Cross and which justify its full commitment. These are the universally recognized fundamental rights, which also appear in the Geneva Conventions and their additional Protocols, such as the right to life, the prohibition of slavery and bondage, the right to physical and mental integrity, the prohibition of torture, of cruel, inhumane or degrading treatment or punishment, the prohibition of taking hostages and of collective punishments. It could also be assumed that the right to life implies the right to adequate food and lodging, and basic care. This is a matter of the safeguard of humanity and human dignity in the most fundamental meaning of the term, of “respect for the human person” which the Red Cross principle of humanity defines as the aim and mission of the Red Cross. When the Red Cross undertakes to defend *these rights* and helps to ensure their respect, nobody can reproach it with violating neutrality. On the contrary, it is fulfilling its mission and contributing to create the conditions necessary to establish peace.

## V

In conclusion, I would like to stress an important point with regard to the work of the Red Cross for peace. We have defined peace as a state of non-belligerence, and also as a situation offering each and all living conditions worthy of man. Thus understood, peace is first and foremost the concern of States and the international organizations they have set up. But the activity or passivity of States and the organizations depends on the will of peoples and individuals; their general behaviour is the reflection of the attitude and mentality of each one among us. Peace is therefore *our concern and our mission*; each one of us is responsible for it. In ourselves and in our entourage, we must fight the currents and forces that endanger and disturb the peace. We must endeavour to overcome lies, injustice, suppression of liberty, prejudice, envy, jealousy,

greed, mistrust, lack of understanding and the hatred of foreigners and others.

Let me mention as examples three great thinkers, men worthy of serving as models.

Max Huber, in one of his last works entitled *Prolégomènes et problèmes d'éthique internationale*,<sup>1</sup> quoted as the main elements of a moral philosophy propitious to the formation of a "spiritual and moral homogeneity" in the community of peoples the concept of honesty, self-criticism, the spirit of justice, non-violence and respect for human rights. But such a moral philosophy could influence and determine the conduct of States towards each other only if the States themselves were wholly inspired by the same ethics, from the highest structure to the basic cells of the nation, which are its individuals.

Albert Schweitzer, in his speech on receiving the Nobel Peace Prize,<sup>2</sup> in Oslo in 1954, declared that the success or failure of peace depended on "what goes on in the mind of each individual and finally constitutes the mentality of peoples". All progress towards an improvement in human existence came from the spirit of humanity and a moral philosophy based on respect for life. Albert Schweitzer emphasized that only insofar as the idea of peace was implanted in men's consciences could the institutions created to safeguard peace do what one demanded and expected of them.

Finally, Karl Jaspers, in his speech on receiving the German Booksellers' Peace Prize<sup>3</sup> in 1958, said that there was no peace without liberty, nor liberty without truth. The policy of peace was a matter of world politics but peace started in the home of each one of us, world peace began by peace within nations. Jaspers went on to say: "The condition of peace is a collective responsibility for which each of us takes a share, by his way of living in freedom and truth. The question of peace is not, primarily, a world-wide issue but a matter confronting each one among us."

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Can the Red Cross contribute to safeguarding peace? If we consider the humanitarian work of the Red Cross and meditate on the words of Huber, Schweitzer and Jaspers, we can perhaps reply in the affirmative,

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<sup>1</sup> Published in *Die Friedenswarte*, Vol. 53, 1956, and in *Vermischte Schriften*, Vol. IV, Zurich, 1957.

<sup>2</sup> Albert Schweitzer, *Das Problem des Friedens in der heutigen Welt*, C. H. Beck, Munich, 1954.

<sup>3</sup> Karl Jaspers, *Wahrheit, Freiheit und Friede*, R. Piper, Munich, 1958.

albeit with reserve and modesty. The possibilities open to the Red Cross to serve peace depend on human and personal efforts to promote human dignity, to defend and propagate humane feelings, ideas and action. Grasping these opportunities is the concern of all those who feel associated with the ideals and the work of the Red Cross.

**Professor Hans Haug**

*Member of the International Committee  
of the Red Cross*

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# Protection of Children in International Humanitarian Law<sup>1</sup>

by Denise Plattner

## I. INTRODUCTION

The legal protection of children was introduced into international humanitarian law after the Second World War. Experience during that conflict had, in fact, pointed to the urgent need to draw up an instrument of public international law for protecting civilian population in wartime. The results of the ICRC's efforts in this field led to the adoption of the 1949 Fourth Geneva Convention relative to the protection of civilian persons in time of war. From that time on, children, as members of the civilian population, were entitled to benefit from the application of that Convention. Moreover, the first international humanitarian law regulations concerning armed conflicts not of an international character, contained in article 3, common to the four 1949 Geneva Conventions, were drawn up at the 1949 Diplomatic Conference. Here again, children were protected, in the same way as all "persons taking no active part in the hostilities".

Since the Second World War, the international community has witnessed the appearance of new kinds of conflicts. Methods and means of warfare have become increasingly sophisticated. Conflicts opposing regular armed forces and irregular combatants are more frequent. In modern warfare, losses are much more severe among civilians, including children. A Diplomatic Conference was held from 1974 to 1977, whose aim was to supplement and develop international humanitarian law by taking into account this evolution. At the close of this Conference in

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<sup>1</sup> Paper read at the International Symposium "Children and War", at Siuntio Baths, Finland, 24-27 March 1983.

1977, the two Protocols additional to the Geneva Conventions were adopted. These instruments considerably improve the protection of civilian population and, consequently, that of children. The new provisions of both Protocol I, applicable during international armed conflicts, and Protocol II, relating to non-international armed conflicts, reaffirm and develop those of the Fourth Geneva Convention.<sup>2</sup>

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), which works on behalf of the victims of armed conflicts, has always been particularly sensitive to the plight of children during wartime. Since the Second World War especially, it has endeavoured to alleviate their sufferings by helping in the drafting of laws for their protection, and by undertaking operations in countries affected by conflicts.

## II. THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN IN THE GENEVA CONVENTIONS AND THEIR ADDITIONAL PROTOCOLS

International humanitarian law provides general protection for children as persons taking no part in hostilities, and special protection as persons who are particularly vulnerable. Moreover, children taking part in hostilities are also protected. The various aspects of the legal protection of children will be examined one after the other in the following paragraphs.

### A. General protection of children, as members of the civilian population

During *international armed conflicts*, children come into the category of those protected by the Fourth Geneva Convention relative to the protection of civilian persons in time of war. By virtue of this, they benefit in particular from all the provisions relative to the treatment of protected persons, which state the basic principle of humane treatment, including respect of life and physical and moral integrity, and forbidding, *inter alia*, coercion, corporal punishments, torture, collective penalties and reprisals.

As members of the civilian population, children benefit from the rules of international humanitarian law relative to the conduct of hostilities. These rules, developing the principles for distinguishing between civilians and combatants and forbidding attacks directed against civilian popu-

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<sup>2</sup> As of 31 December 1983, thirty-eight States had become parties to Protocol I and thirty-one to Protocol II.

lation, are expressed, inasmuch as they refer to international armed conflicts, in Protocol I of 1977.

In *non-international armed conflicts*, children are protected by the fundamental guarantees relating to the treatment of persons taking no active part in the hostilities, set forth in article 3 common to the four Geneva Conventions. Under this article, children have at least the right, during these conflicts which are often very cruel, to be treated humanely. There should not be any violence to their lives and persons or their dignity.

Protocol II of 1977 also codifies the principles according to which the civilian population as such, as well as individual civilians, shall not be the object of attack.

## **B. Special protection of children, as members of the civilian population**

### *1. The principle*

The Fourth Geneva Convention comprises a great many provisions in favour of children. They show that, already in 1949, it was felt that children should be especially protected against warfare. However, the principle on which the rules relating to children is based is not stated explicitly anywhere in that Convention.

Protocol I fills this gap, by providing, under article 77, that: "Children shall be the object of special respect and shall be protected against any form of indecent assault. The parties to the conflict shall provide them with the care and aid they require, whether because of their age or for any other reason". The principle of the special protection of children during *international armed conflicts* is thus explicitly laid down.

Protocol II made similar provision for *non-international armed conflicts*. Article 4, entitled "Fundamental guarantees", comprises a paragraph devoted exclusively to children. It stipulates that: "Children shall be provided with the care and aid they require". This article then enumerates special measures relative to children, giving substance to the general rule stated above. The structure of article 4 shows how important the authors of Protocol II considered the protection of children during non-international armed conflicts, and it enables us to maintain that the principle of special protection of children during these conflicts is thereby affirmed.

### *2. Special provisions for protection against the effects of hostilities*

New-born babies are assimilated to the "wounded" for the purposes of Protocol I (article 8 (a)).

Children who have not attained the age of fifteen years and mothers of children under seven come into the categories of the civilian population who can be received into the hospital or safety zones established by the parties to an *international armed conflict* in accordance with article 41 of the Fourth Geneva Convention. Likewise, children and maternity cases come into the category of civilian persons who, according to the Fourth Convention, should be evacuated from besieged or encircled areas (article 17).

Protocol I provides, yet only on the strictest of conditions, for the temporary evacuation of children, should this become necessary for compelling reasons for their safety (article 78).

In the case of *non-international armed conflicts*, Protocol II encourages the temporary evacuation of children, on certain conditions, from an area in which hostilities are taking place to a safer area within the country (article 4, 3, e).

### 3. *Right to care and aid*

As already mentioned, Protocol I lays down that the parties to an *international armed conflict* should provide children with care and aid.

Many of the provisions of the Fourth Geneva Convention take into account the particular needs of children.

Thus, each High Contracting Party must allow the free passage of relief intended for children under fifteen and maternity cases (article 23). An Occupying Power must facilitate the proper working of institutions devoted to the care of children in occupied territory (article 50). Parties to a conflict are bound to provide for the dependents of internees, if such dependents are without adequate means of support or are unable to earn a living (article 81). Nursing mothers and children under fifteen, interned for reasons of security by parties to a conflict, shall be given additional food, in proportion to their physiological needs (article 89).

Under Protocol I, in the distribution of relief consignments, priority shall be given to children and maternity cases, among others (article 70, 1).

Lastly, according to article 78 of this same Protocol, the temporary evacuation of children is also provided for in cases where the health or medical treatment of the children require it (article 78, 1).

As already mentioned, where *non-international armed conflicts* are concerned, Protocol II lays down the right of children to care and aid (article 4, 3).

### 4. *The child and his family*

In the light of the conclusions of a UNESCO study on children and warfare, the provisions of international humanitarian law which aim

at preserving family unity during armed conflicts take on a special significance. Thus, according to that study:

*“When we study the nature of the psychological suffering of the child who is a victim of the war, we discover that it is not the facts of war itself—such as bombings, military operations—which have affected him emotionally; his sense of adventure, his interest for destruction and movement can accommodate itself to the worst dangers, and he is not conscious of his peril if he keeps near him his protector who, in his child’s heart, incarnates security, and if, at the same time, he can clasp in his arms some familiar object.*

*It is the repercussion of events on the family affective ties and the separation with his customary framework of life which affect the child, and more than anything the abrupt separation from his mother.”*<sup>3</sup>

Protocol I states the general duty of High Contracting Parties and parties to a conflict to facilitate the reuniting of families dispersed as a result of an *international armed conflict* (article 74).

Unity of the family is taken into consideration in the various provisions relative to persons deprived of their freedom. The Fourth Geneva Convention states that, wherever possible, interned members of the same family shall be housed in the same premises and given separate accommodation from other internees, together with facilities for leading a proper family life (article 82). Internees may request that their children who are left at liberty without parental care shall be interned with them (article 82). According to Protocol I, families arrested, detained or interned shall, whenever possible, be accommodated as family units (article 75, 5).

The rules of Protocol I on arrested, detained or interned mothers having dependent infants also stem from a concern to keep mothers and children together. Their cases must be considered with the utmost priority (article 76, 2). Parties to the conflict shall endeavour to avoid the pronouncement of the death penalty on these women; if they are sentenced to death, the penalty shall not be executed (article 76, 3).

The protection of family ties was taken into consideration for the temporary evacuation of children pursuant to article 78 of Protocol I. Such evacuation is subject to very strict conditions. The consent of the parents, legal guardians or persons who by law or custom are primarily responsible for the care of the children is required (article 78, 1). In

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<sup>3</sup> Translation of: *L’Enfance, Victime de la Guerre: Une étude de la situation européenne*, par le docteur Thérèse Brosse, UNESCO 1949, Paris, pp. 11-12, quoted in the “Report on the Work of the Conference of Government Experts”, Vol. II, ICRC 1972, p. 89.

addition, all the necessary steps must be taken to keep track of children who are evacuated (article 78, 3).

In keeping with the principle of the inviolability of the child's personal status, as expressed in the Fourth Geneva Convention, it is forbidden to an Occupying Power to change the family or personal status of children (article 50).

Another aspect of the protection of the family is taken into account in article 51 of the Fourth Geneva Convention, which forbids an Occupying Power to compel protected persons under eighteen to work.

An account of all the measures provided for by international humanitarian law to preserve the ties between children and their families would be incomplete if no mention were made of either the provisions for keeping track of protected persons or of those enabling the members of their families to learn of their fate.

According to the Fourth Geneva Convention, the parties to a conflict shall endeavour to arrange for all children under twelve to be identified, in particular by the wearing of identity discs (article 24). An Occupying Power shall facilitate the identification of children and the registration of their parentage, and set up, within its Information Bureau for protected persons, a special section responsible for identifying children whose identity is in doubt (article 50). The extreme importance of having a system for identifying children, especially infants, must be emphasized. That is the only way of preventing thousands of them from being abandoned as a result of the events of war: exodus of the population, bombings, the destruction of towns, deportations, etc.

Moreover, the Fourth Geneva Convention recognizes that all persons in the territory of a party to a conflict, or in a territory occupied by it, have the right to give news to members of their families, wherever they may be (article 25). The system set up by the Geneva Conventions and the functions assigned to the Central Tracing Agency by the Geneva Conventions<sup>4</sup> permit parents to receive information on their children

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<sup>4</sup> The origin of the provisions on the Central Information Agency in the Geneva Conventions goes back to the very first actions of the ICRC on behalf of the victims of conflicts. But it was in 1914 that the ICRC first established an international Prisoners of War Agency which was responsible for collecting and forwarding information on prisoners (wounded, sick or deceased) and also on civilians. The Geneva Convention relative to the treatment of prisoners of war of 1929 gave legal sanction to the existence and operation of this Agency. During the Second World War, the ICRC opened the Central Prisoners of War Agency in Geneva, which, dealing also with civilians, handled a considerable work load. The 1949 Diplomatic Conference confirmed the legal basis of the Central Information Agency in the Third Geneva Convention relative to prisoners of war, and, in identical terms, in the Fourth Geneva Convention relative to civilian persons. According to the Geneva Conventions, the main tasks of the Central Information Agency are the collecting and transmitting of

who are in the power of a party to a conflict and vice versa (article 136 and ff).

With regard to *non-international armed conflicts*, Protocol II lays down that all appropriate steps shall be taken to facilitate the reuniting of families temporarily separated (article 4, 3, b). The evacuation of children is subject to “the consent of their parents or persons who by law or custom are primarily responsible for their care” (article 4, 3, e). The death penalty shall not be carried out on mothers of young children (article 6, 4).

##### 5. *The cultural environment of the child*

While a child remains with his family, he continues to benefit from the cultural environment to which he is accustomed. By protecting a child's family, international humanitarian law is also protecting the moral values, religion, culture and traditions in which he has been brought up. If a child is orphaned or separated from his parents, his cultural environment can be affected by the conflict. It appears from the provisions of international humanitarian law relating to this category of children that the authors of the Fourth Geneva Convention and those of Protocol I subscribed to the principle that, in *international armed conflicts*, children should benefit from an environment as close as possible to that to which they are accustomed.

Thus, in the Fourth Geneva Convention, the parties to a conflict shall ensure in all circumstances that children under fifteen who are orphaned or separated from their families may continue “the exercise of their religion and their education”; as far as possible, their education shall “be entrusted to persons of a similar cultural tradition” (article 24). The reception of such children in a neutral country should comply with the same principles (article 24). The Occupying Power shall make arrangements for the maintenance and education of children who are orphaned or separated from their parents, “if possible by persons of their own nationality, language and religion” if they “cannot be adequately cared for by a near relative or friend” (article 50). In Protocol I, article 78, 2, relating to the evacuation of children, lays down that “each child's education, including his religious and moral education as his parents desire, shall be provided while he is away with the greatest possible continuity”.

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information on protected persons. The ICRC's Central Tracing Agency continues the work of the Central Prisoners of War Agency and, since 1960, has been run, under this name, as a permanent department of the ICRC.

## 6. *The education of children*

In addition to the provisions mentioned above on the education of children who are orphaned or separated from their families, the Fourth Geneva Convention imposes certain duties of a general nature concerning the education of children on parties to an *international armed conflict*. The Occupying Power must facilitate the proper working of all institutions devoted to the education of children (article 50). The Detaining Power shall ensure the education of interned children and young people, who shall be allowed to attend schools (article 94).

In the case of *non-international armed conflicts*, Protocol II provides that children “shall receive an education, including religious and moral education, in keeping with the wishes of their parents, or in the absence of parents, of those responsible for their care” (article 4, 3, a).

## 7. *The personal rights of the child*

The Fourth Geneva Convention prohibits an Occupying Power from changing a child’s personal status (article 50). Therefore, neither his nationality nor civil status should be changed if his country is occupied during an *international armed conflict*. This provision supplements, with regard to children, the essential principles concerning respect for the human person and for family rights set down in article 27 of the same Convention. In addition, an Occupying Power must not enlist children in formations or organizations subordinate to it (article 50). This prohibition is meant to prevent a renewal of the compulsory mass enrolments which took place during the Second World War, where a great many children were automatically made members of organizations and movements devoted primarily to political ends.

## 8. *Respect of preferential treatment for children*

Although the Fourth Geneva Convention does not state as a principle that special protection should be given to children, two of its provisions do stipulate that preferential treatment granted to children by national legislations shall continue during *international armed conflict*. Indeed, countries at war very often issue decrees for the benefit of those who are particularly vulnerable and who require special treatment: additional food ration cards, facilities for medical and hospital care, social assistance, protection against the effects of war, etc. Children under fifteen years and mothers of children under seven years who are nationals of the enemy are entitled to any preferential treatment which is granted to the same

categories of nationals of the State concerned (article 38). Likewise, the Occupying Power shall not hinder the continued application in favour of these persons of any preferential measures adopted prior to the occupation (article 50).

#### 9. *Arrested, detained or interned children*

International law authorizes a party to an *international armed conflict* to take measures, with regard to protected persons, aimed at ensuring its own security. One of these measures is internment. Moreover, the Occupying Power can indict protected persons for breach of the national laws in force in the occupied territory, or for breach of its own decrees, issued to ensure its own security. A child can be interned like any other protected person. He can also be indicted, as in peacetime, for having committed a breach of the penal law in the occupied territory, or for having committed acts prejudicial to the security of the Occupying Power. Contrary to international humanitarian law (see § 3 above), he may, in fact, have been enrolled in the armed forces and captured as a fighting member of those forces. In taking into account these situations, international humanitarian law provides special provisions for children who are thus deprived of their freedom.

Under Protocol I, children who are arrested, detained or interned, must be held in quarters separate from the quarters of adults, except where families are accommodated as family units (article 77, 4).

The Fourth Convention provides for the lodging of children with their interned parents (article 82), whereas Protocol I extends such accommodation to all those who are in the power of a Party to the conflict (article 75, 5) (see § 4 above).

The Fourth Geneva Convention provides for the education of the children and young people who have been interned (see § 6), as well as special playgrounds for sports and outdoor games (article 94). Provision is made (article 89) for additional food (see § 3). The Convention also encourages the release, repatriation, return to places of residence or accommodation in a neutral country of children and mothers with infants and young children (article 132).

According to the Fourth Geneva Convention, proper regard shall be paid to the special treatment due to minors accused of offences under legislation in force before the occupation (article 76).

According to Protocol I, children under fifteen who take a direct part in hostilities and fall into the power of an adverse party shall continue to benefit from the special protection accorded by article 77 (article 77, 3) (see § 3).

Protocol II contains an identical stipulation for *non-international armed conflicts* (article 4, 3, d) (see § 3).

#### 10. *Children and the death penalty*

The authors of the Fourth Geneva Convention and those of the Additional Protocols fixed the minimum age limit for the execution of the death penalty at eighteen years. According to the Commentary on the Fourth Convention:

*“It (article 68 (4) of the Convention) makes eighteen years the absolute age limit below which the death penalty may not be inflicted, even if all the other conditions which make that penalty applicable are present. The clause corresponds to similar provisions in the penal codes of many countries, and is based on the idea that a person who has not reached the age of eighteen years is not fully capable of sound judgment, does not always realize the significance of his actions and often acts under the influence of others, if not under constraint.”*<sup>5</sup>

With regard to *international armed conflicts*, Protocol I forbids the execution of the death penalty for an offence related to the armed conflict on persons who had not attained the age of eighteen years at the time the offence was committed (article 77, 5). The Fourth Geneva Convention prohibits the death penalty to be pronounced on a protected person of an occupied territory who was under eighteen years of age at the time of the offence (article 68).

In *non-international armed conflicts*, Protocol II forbids the death penalty to be pronounced on persons who were under the age of eighteen years at the time of the offence (article 6, 4).

#### 11. *Orphaned or separated children*

The arrangements which parties to an *international armed conflict* must make for children who are orphaned or separated from their families owing to a war have already been mentioned in the paragraphs devoted to the child and his family (see § 4) and the cultural environment of the child (see § 5).

The Fourth Geneva Convention attaches special importance to the cases of children who are orphaned or separated from their families. The parties to the conflict have the duty to take the necessary measures to ensure the maintenance and education of children under fifteen who

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<sup>5</sup> *Commentary of the Fourth Geneva Convention*, International Committee of the Red Cross, Geneva 1958, re article 68, p. 347.

are orphaned or separated from their families as a result of the war, and to see that they are not left to their own resources (article 24). Provision is made (article 24) for the reception of such children in a neutral country. The authors of the Convention chose fifteen as the age limit because they considered that, after that age, the development of the faculties no longer required special measures to such an extent.<sup>6</sup> Likewise, the Occupying Power should make arrangements for the maintenance and education of children who are orphaned or separated from their parents (article 50).

### **C. Children taking part in hostilities**

Both Protocols include provisions relating to a new problem, that of children taking part in hostilities. This is one of the consequences of the evolution in the nature of conflicts, namely the fact that civilians and combatants are often mixed. Children's involvement in hostilities, which can extend from indirectly helping combatants to actually taking part in fighting, or even being enlisted in the armed forces, should be considered within this context. To categorically prevent children from taking part in hostilities would have been neither realistic, nor even possible. However, the Protocols aim at excluding their doing so as far as possible, especially by forbidding the recruitment of young people under fifteen (article 77, 2 of Protocol I and article 4, 3, c of Protocol II). Moreover, Protocol I encourages the parties to a conflict, if they recruit persons between the ages of fifteen and eighteen years, to enlist the oldest first (article 77, 2).

If, despite the provisions of the Protocols, children who have not attained the age of fifteen years take a direct part in hostilities and are captured, they shall continue to benefit from the special protection afforded by the Protocols (article 77, 3 of Protocol I and article 4, 3, d of Protocol II).

## **III. ICRC ACTION IN FAVOUR OF CHILD VICTIMS OF ARMED CONFLICTS**

The ICRC has always been active in promoting the legal protection of children. As long ago as 1939, the ICRC and the International Union for Child Welfare prepared a draft Convention for the protection of the child. It did not materialize owing to the outbreak of the Second

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<sup>6</sup> *Ibid.*, re article 24, p. 186.

World War. During the Diplomatic Conferences in 1949 and from 1974 to 1977, the ICRC initiated and developed the legal protection of children.

In accordance with its tradition as a humanitarian organization, and with its mandate, the ICRC did not await the legal provisions for protecting children in armed conflicts before undertaking operations for the protection of children. Throughout conflicts the ICRC's initiatives preceded the legal protection of children and endeavoured to complete or compensate for it, when the machinery for applying international law was wanting.

During the Second World War, amongst so much horror and in spite of the difficulties it encountered in its work for civilians, due especially to a lack of legal grounds, the ICRC was able to organize certain actions such as the placing of young people under eighteen in special camps, the organization of radio broadcasts to facilitate the re-uniting of children and parents and the creation of children's homes in countries ravaged by the war.

There is one sphere in which the ICRC has made and continues to make a vitally important contribution on behalf of children: the tracing of missing persons, the exchanging of family messages and the reuniting of families separated by the fighting. For over a century, the ICRC's Central Tracing Agency has been gathering and transmitting information on missing persons, captives, refugees, persons released from detention or repatriated, and informing their families. When normal channels of communication are disrupted, it forwards family messages. In the discharge of these tasks, ICRC delegates give priority to the tracing of missing children, putting them in touch, and reuniting them with their families. A task accomplished in recent years by the ICRC's Central Tracing Agency on behalf of children separated from their parents through war was the identifying of unaccompanied Khmer children placed in refugee camps in Thailand as a result of the Kampuchea conflict. In this way, in 1980, about 3,500 cases of unaccompanied minors were registered by the ICRC, in co-operation with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and various voluntary agencies, with the aim of reuniting them with their families.

With regard to assistance, children benefit by the relief actions which the ICRC undertakes on behalf of civilian populations affected by conflicts. In some cases the main beneficiaries of ICRC assistance programmes are children and adolescents. Such was the case, for example, in Zambia, during the Rhodesia/Zimbabwe conflict, where 18,000 of the 29,000 refugees from Rhodesia/Zimbabwe, were young people under sixteen, and 300 were young mothers with babies. Until the end of the

conflict in 1980, the ICRC supplied these persons with a considerable amount of medical and material aid.

It also happens that the ICRC carries out a special operation for children. The assistance programme for orphanages, which the ICRC undertook in Kampuchea in 1981, is a case in point.

The ICRC endeavours to protect all the victims of armed conflicts, and, by virtue of this, children are included in the actions which the ICRC undertakes during these conflicts. This means that children will be visited by the ICRC if they are being held by a party to a conflict and be included in the ICRC's actions or interventions on behalf of the victims of armed conflicts. The ICRC can also take special measures of protection for children. For example, on the day following the ICRC's first visit to Al Ansar Camp in south Lebanon, where mainly Palestinian prisoners were detained, 212 children under sixteen were released under the auspices of the ICRC. ICRC delegates took charge of the children and ensured their return to their families in the various regions of the Lebanon (September-October 1982).

#### IV. CONCLUSION

Numerous provisions of international humanitarian law establish and develop the principle of special protection for children in time of armed conflict. Whether for victims of armed conflict, or specifically for children as such; whether it involves promotion of respect for international humanitarian law or the daily tasks of its delegates, the ICRC's work undoubtedly gives effect to the principle that child victims of war must be protected. Indeed such protection is part and parcel of the protection of civilians against the effects of hostilities. It is within this scope that the protection of children should first be situated.

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# INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

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## **The ICRC President re-elected**

The Assembly of the International Committee of the Red Cross, in its meeting of 27 and 28 June, re-elected Mr. Alexandre Hay to the Presidency of the ICRC for a third term of four years beginning on 1 January 1985.

Mr. Alexandre Hay, born in 1919, has been a member of the International Committee since 1975 and its President since 1 July 1976.

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## **President of Costa Rica visits ICRC**

Mr. Luis Alberto Monge, President of the Republic of Costa Rica, visited on 12 June 1984 the headquarters of the International Committee of the Red Cross, in Geneva. He was received by the ICRC President, Mr. Alexandre Hay, and with him President Monge discussed various humanitarian issues.

The President of Costa Rica was accompanied by several personalities, among them Mr. Guillermo Sandoval, Minister of Labour, Dr. Hugo Muñoz, Minister of Justice and Ambassador Elias Soley Soler, Permanent Representative of Costa Rica to the United Nations Office in Geneva.

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## **The President of the ICRC visits the League of Arab States**

The President of the ICRC, Mr. Alexandre Hay, accompanied by Mr. Jean Hoefliger, delegate-general of the ICRC for the Middle East, and by Mr. S. Nessi, chief of the Finance Division, paid a visit to Tunis from 22 to 25 March, during which he went to the headquarters of the League of Arab States. There he met the Secretary-General of the League, Mr. Chedli Klibi, together with Mr. Assad el Assad, Deputy Secretary-General, Mr. Moncef el May, the League's permanent observer in Geneva, and Mr. Ahmed Harguem, chief of the Diplomatic Relations Department.

The President of the ICRC expressed the International Committee's appreciation to the Secretary-General for the initiative he took in 1980 in having the Council of Arab Ministers of Labour and Social Affairs adopt a resolution recommending the member States of the League to ratify the Protocols additional to the Geneva Conventions and to take a greater part in financing the ICRC. Then, having briefly outlined to the Secretary-General the activities of the ICRC, particularly in Arab countries and in the Middle East, he once again raised the question of financial support by the member States of the Arab League for the activities of the ICRC in that part of the world.

The Secretary-General of the League of Arab States offered a lunch in honour of the President of the ICRC, which was attended by several leading figures in Tunisia as well as by the above-mentioned members of the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States.

The ICRC is pleased with the good relations it has had over a number of years with the League of Arab States—relations which this visit to Tunis has further strengthened.

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### **ICRC President in Saudi Arabia and Libya**

From 2 to 6 April, the President of the ICRC, Mr. Alexandre Hay, accompanied by Mr. Jean Hoeffliger, delegate-general for the Middle East, and Mr. S. Nessi, head of the Financing Division, carried out a brief mission to Saudi Arabia, where he met with government authorities and informed them about ICRC activities and the problems encountered by the institution, in particular in Iraq, Iran and Lebanon. The ICRC President also wished to discuss questions of ICRC financing.

Mr. Hay successively met Prince Saud al Faisal, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Sheikh Muhammad Aba al Khail, Minister of Finance and Economy, Mr. Abdallah Bishara, Secretary General of the Gulf Cooperation Council, and Mr. Rafik Hariri, Saudi mediator in the Lebanese conflict. All of these persons were extremely cordial and understanding and stated that they would try to smooth out any difficulties besetting the ICRC in the political or economic areas under their responsibility.

Shortly after this visit, the ICRC had the pleasure to learn that Saudi Arabia had decided to donate 3 million Swiss francs to the institution. This announcement was received with gratitude.

From 14 to 16 May, the ICRC President, accompanied by the same persons, visited the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya. He was welcomed at the airport by a large delegation, led by Mr. Ibrahim al Faquin Hasan, Minister of Social Security, on behalf of the Minister of Health, who was absent.

The ICRC President had talks with the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Ali Abdul Salam Treiki, and other officials at the same Ministry, during which he spoke of ICRC activities and the difficulties encountered in carrying them out. Problems of ICRC financing were also discussed.

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### **Accession of the Republic of Cape Verde to the Geneva Conventions**

On 11 May 1984 the Government of the Republic of Cape Verde deposited with the Swiss Government its instrument of accession to the four Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949. This accession brings to 156 the number of States parties to the Geneva Conventions.

Pursuant to their provisions, the Geneva Conventions will enter into force, for the Republic of Cape Verde, on 11 November 1984, six months after the deposit of the instrument of accession.

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### **Ratification of the Protocols by the Togolese Republic**

The Togolese Republic deposited with the Swiss Government, on 21 June 1984, the instruments of ratification of 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 Togolese Republic on 21 December 1984.

This is the 41st State to become party to Protocol I and the 35th to Protocol II.

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## *EXTERNAL ACTIVITIES*

March—April 1984

### **Africa**

#### **Angola**

On 26 April, 89 persons (19 children and 70 adults) held by UNITA were released and handed over to a group of ICRC delegates in southern Angola. The group of persons released consisted of 68 Portuguese, 16 Filipinos, one Japanese, one Spaniard, one Italian, one Brazilian and one Pole; eight of them were missionaries.

An ICRC chartered aircraft transported the 89 persons from southern Angola to Johannesburg airport, where they were handed over to the consular representatives of their respective countries.

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

On two occasions in March and once in April, ICRC delegates visited the Cuban prisoner being held by the South African armed forces.

Furthermore, the delegation continued its assistance activities for detainees' families, distributing vouchers entitling them to receive food-stuffs (604 vouchers worth about 38,000 Swiss francs in March and 809 vouchers worth about 50,000 Swiss francs in April). It also took over the travel expenses of various families wishing to visit their detained relatives: 124 travel vouchers (35,000 Swiss francs) were allocated in March and 147 (46,000 Swiss francs) in April. The delegation also financed medical treatment and other urgent needs of recently released indigent detainees.

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

In March and April, ICRC delegates visited three detainees who had been transferred from Robben Island prison to Windhoek prison.

As in the past, the delegation continued to provide assistance to the detainees and their needy families; assistance for the months of March and April amounted to about 12,000 Swiss francs.

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Our January-February 1984 issue (No. 238), under the heading Namibia/South West Africa, contains a printing mistake. Please read: "ICRC delegates in Namibia, on 17 and 18 November, visited fourteen Angolan prisoners of war and 131 security detainees..."

We apologize for this mistake, which appears in our English edition only.

### **Zimbabwe**

In March, the ICRC regional delegation, in co-operation with the Zimbabwe Red Cross Society, provided relief supplies of foodstuffs (11 tonnes) and clothing (2.8 tonnes) to some 22,500 children suffering from malnutrition in Matabeleland and to some 30,000 persons who had sought refuge in Mozambique. In April, approximately 18 tonnes of foodstuffs were distributed to the above-mentioned children.

As concerns information and dissemination, a number of ICRC publications and cassettes explaining and illustrating various ICRC activities and destined for use in sound and television broadcasts, were sent to the National Red Cross Societies in those countries covered by the regional delegation in Harare: Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

### **Mozambique**

The rehabilitation centre in Maputo, where three ICRC technicians are working on assignment, has, since the beginning of 1984, fitted 49 persons with artificial limbs. It has also produced 140 pairs of crutches and 13 wheelchairs for disabled persons.

In April, 10 persons finished a two-year apprenticeship as fully-qualified prosthetists. Another course to train eight more persons was started during the same month.

An agreement was reached between the ICRC and the Mozambique Ministry of Health to keep the rehabilitation centre open for a further period of time.

### **Zaire**

In March, ICRC delegates in Kinshasa visited 289 detainees in two detention centres. They distributed food parcels and hygiene articles to the detainees. In April, food aid and some medical relief supplies were distributed to the detainees and their needy families.

The ICRC made representations to obtain the central authorities' agreement to visit without restriction all the security detainees.

**Chad**

After several months of negotiations, the ICRC delegation in N'Djamena was authorized to resume its visits to places of detention. From 7 to 26 March, the delegates visited the central prison in the capital, where they saw 661 prisoners of war and 21 other detainees and distributed about 4.5 tonnes of relief supplies to them, including foodstuffs, health and hygiene articles. In April, the delegates visited some 80 prisoners of war near Abeche and Biltine in the east of the country and provided them with foodstuffs and hygiene articles (a total of 7.7 tonnes). During the visits, an ICRC medical delegate examined sick detainees.

In the north, on the other side of the front, ICRC delegates based in Bardai, the main locality in Tibesti, continued to visit prisoners of war around Zuar and Zumri. Some relief supplies (foodstuffs, blankets, hygiene articles) were distributed.

ICRC medical delegates continued training local health workers. The programme, which had started at the beginning of the year, consists of basic instruction on hygiene in general and of health education for mothers and children.

Family messages were distributed in both parts of Chad: messages from prisoners being held in the north were distributed to families in the south and vice versa.

**Uganda**

The general situation in Uganda deteriorated in March and the danger increased to such an extent that the Red Cross emergency operation conducted, under the responsibility of the ICRC, in conjunction with members of the Uganda Red Cross and delegates from the League and other National Red Cross Societies, could be continued only on a more limited scale.

Whereas weekly distributions of foodstuffs had been possible in 28 distribution centres, for about 115,000 displaced persons in March, only 60,000 displaced persons received such assistance in April and only 15 distribution centres could be maintained. In March 1,032 tonnes of food, 7,500 blankets and 17 tonnes of other relief supplies were distributed; in April these amounts had diminished to 636 tonnes of food, 2,900 blankets and 16 tonnes of various relief supplies.

The seven Red Cross medical teams, one of which is specifically in charge of vaccinations, were very active, although their activities, too, were limited in April. In March they examined 55,000 people in 15 places,

and vaccinated over 9,000 people. In April, the figures decreased to 7,600 examinations and about 900 children vaccinated.

Parallel with the efforts of the authorities, who, with the help of several humanitarian agencies, are trying to resettle the displaced civilian population, in particular by providing tools and corn seed, the ICRC delegates distributed notebooks and pencils to the schools that had been opened in the regions concerned.

Furthermore, protection activities continued in March and April in the prisons and police stations. ICRC delegates, including two medical delegates, visited 10 prisons and 14 police stations in and around Kampala.

During these two months, the local Tracing Agency offices dealt with reuniting families (330 families were reunited in March, 579 in April), transferring displaced persons (17 in March, 982 in April), tracing persons declared missing (64 persons found in March, 240 in April) and transmitting family messages (1,531 in March, 740 in April).

Various technicians were made available by National Red Cross Societies. A food specialist, sent by the German Red Cross in the Federal Republic of Germany, continued his survey of the state of health of the population and the food available in several districts; the same technician is also in charge of training Uganda Red Cross personnel. A sanitary engineer was sent by the New Zealand Red Cross to organize water supply systems and deal with other hygiene problems on behalf of the displaced persons. A pharmacist sent by the Danish Red Cross and an ICRC technician are co-operating in laboratory and pharmaceutical work.

As concerns information and teaching, weekly courses are given by ICRC delegates to members of the Uganda Red Cross. Other courses have been organized for members of the police force.

Moreover, special correspondents from the ICRC and the National Societies of Sweden, Finland and Denmark observed Red Cross activities in Uganda and brought back information, news reports and photographs.

## **Kenya**

One of the tasks of the ICRC regional delegation in Nairobi is to give logistical support to Red Cross activities in Uganda.

Furthermore, the delegation has organized, in Kenya itself, courses on international humanitarian law for instructors in the three branches of the armed forces, as well as for members of the Youth Red Cross. ICRC publications on the subjects studied were distributed during the courses.

### **Mauritius and Madagascar**

In March, the ICRC regional delegate in Nairobi visited Mauritius and Madagascar on a two-week mission. He gave lectures to the members of the Red Cross Societies and had talks with representatives of the governmental authorities in both countries.

### **Ethiopia**

The prolonged drought and the continuing hostilities have considerably aggravated the situation of the civilian population, especially in Tigre and Eritrea. Since the beginning of the year, rural inhabitants have been thronging into the towns in search of food. Assessment missions carried out by ICRC delegates in Tigre, Eritrea, North Wollo and Bale have shown that the civilian population in these areas is in urgent need of increased food aid. Plans that take into account programmes of the League, the Ethiopian Relief and Rehabilitation Commission, UN agencies and various volunteer organizations have been drawn up by the ICRC. These plans advocate a substantial increase in relief supplies, and consequently also in the number of vehicles to transport relief supplies and personnel to carry out these activities.

In March, 566 tonnes of relief supplies were distributed to 45,000 persons in the provinces of Tigre, Gondar, Harar, Bale/Genale and Eritrea. In April, 843 tonnes were distributed to 73,800 beneficiaries.

Medical relief supplies (medicaments, dressings, transfusion equipment) were distributed to various hospitals and dispensaries. A child feeding centre was opened by the ICRC in Mekele, where 950 children are being cared for.

In March, ICRC delegates visited 10 Somali prisoners of war in Awasa and 206 in Harar, according to traditional ICRC procedure. The prisoners were given relief supplies and games.

### **Somalia**

The ICRC delegation distributed food aid, mainly fruit and vegetables, to 208 Ethiopian prisoners of war and to the Cuban prisoner of war being held in Somalia. Cigarettes were also given to the prisoners. This assistance amounted to 2,000 Swiss francs in March and 4,000 Swiss francs in April.

Medical material, dressing material, medicaments, mattresses and blankets for a total value of 9,000 Swiss francs were given to hospitals.

The activities of the local office of the Tracing Agency are beginning to show some results: 33 family messages were exchanged in April between Somali prisoners of war in Ethiopia and their families in Somalia.

### **Dissemination activities**

Virtually all over Africa, ICRC delegates' activities to increase knowledge of the Red Cross and its principles and the essential rules of international humanitarian law have expanded considerably and gained momentum. Besides the work mentioned above, also worthy of note are the dissemination activities in Namibia (lecture and films), Zimbabwe (cassettes and films), Zaire (lectures), Congo (photograph exhibition, lectures and films) and Sudan (courses for members of the armed forces and the National Red Crescent). Various ICRC publications, in particular the *Soldier's Manual* and the *Summary of the Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols* were distributed during these events.

## **Latin America**

### **Missions from Geneva**

During the first two weeks in March Mr. E. Corthésy, assistant delegate-general of the ICRC for Latin America and the Caribbean, went on a mission which brought him first to El Salvador and then to Honduras, Nicaragua and Costa Rica in order to assess current ICRC activities in those countries. He was joined in El Salvador and Nicaragua by Dr. Russbach, chief medical officer of the ICRC.

In *El Salvador* the ICRC delegate was received by the President of the Republic, Mr. Magana, and by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Chavez Mena, and discussed with them problems relating to protection and relief activities in the country.

In *Honduras* Mr. Corthésy had talks with the Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Pineda, and described ICRC activities in the country; he reminded him of the institution's willingness to undertake protection activities.

In *Nicaragua* the ICRC delegate had a discussion with the Minister for Health, Mrs. Léa Guido, on the operation on behalf of displaced persons. Dr. R. Russbach discussed the assistance which the ICRC might give to the Invalid Re-education Centre.

In *Costa Rica* discussions were held with Mr. R. Bermudez, a delegate of the League, and with the Costa Rican Red Cross concerning, in particular, the question of refugees in that country.

## El Salvador

In March the ICRC delegates made 144 visits (29 in the capital and 115 in the departments) to 87 places of detention under the authority of the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Defence and Public Security. They interviewed, without witnesses, 115 new detainees who had been imprisoned for security reasons.

In April, during the course of 136 visits they went to 91 detention centres in the capital and in the provinces. They had interviews without witnesses with 129 new detainees who were being held for interrogation.

The ICRC Tracing Agency offices in San Salvador, San Miguel and Santa Ana continued to receive several hundred visitors per month who came to enquire about the fate of relatives reported missing.

The delegation continued its assistance activity. Thus in March more than 86 tonnes of food aid were distributed to about 14,500 needy displaced persons in 12 villages, and to hospitals and prisons in the central part of the country. In the eastern region, more than 198 tonnes of food aid were distributed to approximately 29,500 recipients in villages, Red Cross centres and schools. In the department of Usulután, building material was made available for families who had just been displaced.

In April, 178 tonnes of relief supplies were distributed to more than 19,000 people in 19 villages in the centre of the country and, in the eastern region, 272 tonnes of food products to more than 37,500 recipients. Building material was also given to more than 60 recently displaced families.

While these relief supplies were being distributed, mobile medical teams gave consultations for the sick (1,564 in March and 2,855 in April) and the dentist examined more than 850 patients during these two months.

In addition, the delegates gave medicines and medical material, to a total value of approximately 44,000 Swiss francs for these two months, to various hospitals, dispensaries, prison clinics and schools.

On the night of March 6 an ambulance of the El Salvador Red Cross came under fire and two Red Cross volunteer workers were killed. Grievously affected by this new tragedy, the ICRC and the El Salvador Red Cross made a public appeal urging that the Red Cross emblem and its personnel be respected. Furthermore, both institutions, in the hope of increasing respect for the Red Cross emblem and the safety of those who work under its protection, have intensified their efforts to give the combatants a better knowledge and understanding of humanitarian law and the principles of the Red Cross.

## Nicaragua

Continuing their protection activities in Nicaragua the ICRC delegates, between 5 and 23 March, visited the "Zona Franca" prison in Managua where they saw 692 detainees; on 3 and 4 April they went to prisons in Juigalpa, Chinandega, Esteli and Matagalpa, situated in the provinces, and met 193 detainees. These visits were made in accordance with the customary ICRC procedure.

The ICRC delegates distributed relief supplies to the detainees (food parcels, mattresses, medical material and hygiene products) to a value of more than 40,000 Swiss francs each month. In addition, the delegation gave assistance throughout the country to some 1,000 detainees' families in need; it provided them with various relief supplies which came to about 24,000 Swiss francs each month.

The delegation also gave relief supplies to needy detainees and to some 1,500 displaced persons in the southern part of the country.

Following a survey made in March to assess needs in regions inhabited by the Miskito Indians, the delegation, in April, initiated an assistance programme for 26,000 displaced Miskitos living along the eastern coast. They received about 10 tonnes of provisions to a value of 24,000 Swiss francs.

For its part, the ICRC Tracing Agency office in Managua continued to transmit family messages between Nicaraguan refugees in Honduras and their relatives in Nicaragua.

About 65 people took part in a seminar organized in Managua on 2 and 3 April and attended by the National Council of the Nicaragua Red Cross and the presidents of the local and departmental branches. On this occasion the ICRC regional delegate in San José (Costa Rica) described the activities of the ICRC, the principles of the Red Cross and international humanitarian law. Then, from April to the middle of May, he gave a series of lectures on the same subjects in twenty local branches of the Nicaragua Red Cross.

## Honduras

A programme, which started at the beginning of 1983, to strengthen the operational framework of the Honduran Red Cross was completed by the end of April. As part of this programme a radio-communication network was set up linking eight local branches of the National Red Cross in the southern part of the country; four first aid posts and a stock of emergency material were also established.

The ICRC delegates visited the Jacaleapa camp in the south of the country and handed over Red Cross messages to the Nicaraguan refugees.

In San Pedro Sula and Tala the ICRC delegate gave lectures to members of the National Red Cross on the principles of the Red Cross and the activities of the institution.

### **Regional delegation at Costa Rica**

Mr. A. Kobel, the ICRC regional delegate, stayed in Guatemala from 20 to 30 March. He had several talks with the authorities on subjects concerning protection and dissemination of knowledge of the Red Cross principles.

From 24 to 29 April the ICRC regional delegate went on mission to the Dominican Republic in order to establish contacts with the authorities and the National Red Cross Society. He met Mr. Americo Espinal, Attorney General of the Republic, on 26 April.

### **Peru**

On 19 April the ICRC delegation obtained the consent of the government authorities to open an office in Lima.

A new round of visits to places of detention began on 4 April at the "Carceleta" prison, where the ICRC delegates saw 30 detainees. The following day they visited the "Fronton" prison, where 363 people of concern to the ICRC are being held. On 19 April thirteen detainees were visited at the "Dircote" in Lima.

### **Colombia**

Mr. G. Heumann, the ICRC regional delegate for the Andean countries, commenced a new round of visits to places of detention on 24 March.

### **Uruguay**

From 12 to 15 March, ICRC delegates visited the Military confinement establishment No. 2 (Punta de Rieles), a place of detention for women only, and saw 100 detainees.

From 19 March onwards the delegates visited 631 detainees in military confinement establishment No. 1 (Libertad).

### **Chile**

An ICRC delegate, based in Buenos Aires, went to Santiago, Chile, on 3 April. On 5 April he visited people detained in the "Carcel Publica" (Public Prison) on account of recent events.

## Asia

### Mission by delegate-general to Sri Lanka

From 29 April to 2 May, Mr. Jean de Courten, ICRC delegate-general for Asia and Oceania, accompanied by a delegate, carried out a mission in Sri Lanka, where he had talks with the Minister of National Security, representatives of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Justice and the Chairman of the Sri Lanka Red Cross. The discussions dealt with the situation now prevailing in the country and the possible role of the ICRC in the context of that situation.

After the departure of Mr. de Courten, the delegate who had accompanied him went to Jaffna where he visited a camp for displaced persons. He had discussions with the authorities and with representatives of various local organizations, including the local chapter of the Sri Lanka Red Cross.

### Conflict in Afghanistan

Pursuant to agreements between the ICRC and all the parties concerned (Afghan opposition movements, Pakistan, the USSR and Switzerland), another Soviet prisoner in the hands of an Afghan movement has been transferred to Switzerland for a two-year period of internment. The transfer took place on 9 April, under the auspices of the ICRC.

\* \* \*

In Pakistan, the ICRC continued its medical assistance programme for Afghan victims of the fighting in their country. The ICRC hospitals in Peshawar and Quetta received 308 and 139 war casualties respectively, in March and April, an appreciable increase over the totals in the first two months of the year. At Quetta, it was even necessary to set up a tent temporarily to cope with the influx of wounded. The two medical teams working at Peshawar — one from the Finnish Red Cross and the other from the ICRC — and the Italian Red Cross team working at Quetta carried out a total of 802 surgical operations and treated 2,536 out-patients.

In addition, the medical first-aid teams of the Pakistan Red Crescent, supplied with medical material and medicaments by the ICRC, gave assistance to 196 wounded Afghans and carried out the evacuation of 128 others to the ICRC surgical hospitals. It should be noted in this

connection that the team based at Badini, which had been forced by weather conditions to suspend its activities in December, resumed its normal operations in April.

The orthopaedic workshop at Peshawar produced 106 prostheses in March and April and the centre for paraplegics admitted 29 new patients in the same period. At the end of April, 75 persons including 18 Pakistanis were following rehabilitation courses at the centre.

### **Thailand**

The ICRC surgical teams working at the Khao-I-Dang hospital were particularly active in April following the resumption of fighting along the Khmer-Thai border, especially in the central sector. Additional personnel (a surgeon, an anaesthetist and two nurses seconded by the Danish and Norwegian Red Cross Societies) were rushed to Thailand to reinforce the teams already present, which include specialists provided by the National Societies of Belgium, Canada, Finland, France, Iceland, Japan, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom. Meanwhile, the team at the ICRC surgical hospital at Kab Cherng continued working at their normal rhythm. The Khao-I-Dang hospital, in March and April, admitted 404 patients (including 204 war casualties, in contrast to 104 in January—February) while the Kab Cherng hospital admitted 210 patients (of whom 14 were war casualties).

The value of medical assistance given by the ICRC to the Khao-I-Dang and Kab Cherng hospitals, to the prison infirmary in Aranya-prathet and the frontier camp dispensaries, in March and April, amounted to about 173,300 Swiss francs. In the same period, the ICRC distributed in the camps various relief materials (food, paramedical equipment, bedding, cooking utensils and clothing) worth more than 36,700 Swiss francs.

The ICRC Tracing Agency office in Bangkok received 984 requests to locate missing persons. It also transferred 377 persons between different camps along the Khmer-Thai border, brought about 18 family reunions and arranged for the transmission of 2,800 letters between refugees and their families, living either in other camps or abroad.

### **Kampuchea**

The ICRC continued to provide medical material to several hospitals in Phnom Penh. In addition, 3 tonnes of medical assistance were supplied to the medical teams of the French, Swedish and Swiss Red Cross

Societies working respectively in Phnom Penh, Kompong Chhnang and Kompong Cham.

In March and April, flights between Bangkok, Ho Chi Minh City and Phnom Penh enabled the ICRC to deliver 4.7 tonnes of relief, either on its own account or for various other humanitarian organizations.

### **Indonesia/East Timor**

ICRC delegates in March visited more than 2,100 displaced persons on the island of Atauro, East Timor, and saw 122 persons, detained because of the events, at the Comarca prison at Dili. The delegates also visited 7 sick detainees at the Dili military hospital.

In addition, during March and April, as part of the ICRC programme for repatriation and family reunions, 50 persons were transferred from East Timor to Portugal and 4 to Australia.

## **Middle East**

### **Presidential missions**

Mr. Alexandre Hay, President of the ICRC, accompanied by Mr. Jean Hoeffliger, ICRC delegate-general for the Middle East and northern Africa, and Mr. Serge Nessi, Head of the Finance Division, was in *Tunisia* from 22 to 25 March on a courtesy visit.

He had talks on subjects of mutual interest with representatives of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, with whom he discussed ICRC activities. He stressed that the ICRC is always prepared to co-operate in the solution of humanitarian problems within its competence.

The ICRC President then visited the *Arab Republic of Yemen* and from 31 March to 2 April took part at Sanaa in the Fifteenth Conference of Arab Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

After Sanaa, Mr. Hay visited *Saudi Arabia* from 2 to 6 April.

Finally, the ICRC President went to *Iraq* on 30 April. On 1 May, he met Mr. Tariq Aziz, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs.

The latter three missions are dealt with in detail elsewhere in the *Review*.

## **Conflict between Iraq and Iran**

### **Iran**

#### *Prisoners of War*

After the suspension in July 1983 of visits to Iraqi prisoners of war detained in Iran, the ICRC made repeated approaches, both in Geneva and Teheran, seeking to resume these activities in accordance with its customary procedures.

On 4 March, a note from the Iranian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, asking for a resumption of our activities in Iran, was delivered to the ICRC delegation in Teheran. It offered the guarantees repeatedly demanded by the ICRC; namely, its delegates will be protected from any attack against their persons or their rights; they will have access to all prisoner-of-war camps; they will be able to have interviews with the prisoners without witness, without limitation of frequency and duration and with no illicit intervention by the authorities. In addition, it is guaranteed that the ICRC delegation will be able to collect and distribute family messages as specified by the Conventions. The religious life of the prisoners will be provided for in conformity with Articles 34 et seq. of the Third Convention, and only the disciplinary forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran will be in charge of the administration of prisoner-of-war camps.

The ICRC replied to the note from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of 4 March by stating that it was prepared to resume its activities for prisoners of war in Iran and to send the delegates and doctors necessary for that purpose.

Discussions took place in Teheran between the authorities and the delegation to determine the procedures and the schedule for visits, which were resumed on 19 May.

#### *ICRC medical mission and appeal*

At the beginning of March, the ICRC sent a medical mission to Iran to evaluate the needs for assistance resulting from the fighting on the Irano-Iraqi front. The medical mission, in visits to several hospitals in Teheran, saw about 500 cases of wounded combatants who all showed a series of signs and symptoms constituting a disturbing clinical picture of such character as to support a presumption of the recent use of products prohibited by current international law.

Together with the representations it made to the parties concerned, the ICRC stressed that the use on the battlefield of toxic substances is

incompatible with respect for the principle of humanity and constitutes a violation of both the customary and codified laws of war.

### **Iraq**

On 1 May, Mr. Alexandre Hay, President of the ICRC, accompanied by Mr. Jean Hoeffiger, ICRC delegate-general for the Middle East, went to Baghdad where he met Mr. Tariq Aziz, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs. Their discussions dealt with all the ICRC activities in Iraq for the benefit of prisoners of war and civilian internees.

### **Lebanon**

Violent fighting took place in March and April in the Lebanese capital and its outskirts, where the cease-fire was no more than partially observed. South Lebanon was cut off on several occasions from the rest of the country. In Tripoli, there were violent clashes between different groups on 15 and 16 April, breaking a relative calm which otherwise prevailed there.

Under these circumstances, the ICRC delegation in Lebanon concentrated its efforts on supplying relief and medical assistance to victims of the fighting. Two ICRC vessels were able to enter the ports of Sidon and Jounié, bringing large quantities of relief and medicaments and a number of ambulances. The port and airport of Beirut remained closed and the hospitals and dispensaries had supply difficulties which the ICRC strove to alleviate.

The medical personnel of the ICRC delegation continued its evaluation missions in the hospitals and dispensaries in Beirut and in the provinces, in Tripoli, Sidon, in the Chouf and in the Bekaa. Medicaments and medical supplies were delivered on the occasion of their visits, as well as plasma and whole blood to meet surgical needs. During the two months, 462 standard medical kits were distributed, to a total value of about 176,000 Swiss francs. In addition, medicaments and medical material worth about 142,000 Swiss francs were purchased locally and distributed immediately. The ICRC also delivered to the Lebanese Red Cross, during March, 11 ambulances donated by the Federal Republic of Germany and, in April, 9 more ambulances given by the Danish Red Cross. In addition, it delivered 84 wheelchairs from the Spanish Red Cross and blood and plasma donated by the Norwegian and Finnish Red Cross Societies. It also provided the Lebanese Red Cross with an electric generator. The ICRC furthermore agreed to finance a socio-medical

centre and first-aid facilities for the Lebanese Red Cross, in a southern suburb of Beirut. The cost of installation and 6 months' operation was estimated at about 90,000 Swiss francs.

Activities in aid of amputees continued in the three orthopaedic centres of Beit Chebab, Sidon and the Syrian capital of Damascus. The latter centre is being administered in co-operation with the Swedish Red Cross and the "Palestinian Red Crescent." ICRC technicians also gave orthopaedic consultations in the Chouf and the Bekaa.

The ICRC delegation in March and April distributed increased quantities of emergency relief supplies to persons affected by the fighting. In March, in Beirut alone, 175 tonnes of relief supplies (food, soap, candles, kitchen equipment, etc.) were distributed to about 40,000 persons and in April, 215 tonnes, plus 6,000 blankets, were distributed to some 45,000 persons. In addition, convoys were organized to take relief supplies to the provinces. In March, 143 tonnes of various kinds of relief, mostly food, were delivered in the Chouf for about 12,000 beneficiaries; 130 tonnes for some 19,000 persons in the Upper Metn and Caza Aley; 7 tonnes of food, blankets, kitchen equipment and candles were distributed in the Bekaa; 19 tonnes of relief went to Tripoli. In April, these distributions continued and a total of 317 tonnes of various forms of relief went to 40,000 victims of the events in the provinces.

During the two months, the ICRC continued its protection and tracing activities throughout Lebanon. In the Ansar camp, weekly visits continued to recently arrested detainees. At the end of March, 338 prisoners had been registered, and 418 at the end of April. Between 20 and 23 March, ICRC delegates made a complete visit, in conformity with the customary ICRC procedure, including interviews without witness with the detainees. The first family visits to the detainees were organized by the detaining authorities on 9 April.

In addition, ICRC delegates made daily visits to the Palestinian camps near Sidon and Tyre and attempted to provide protection for the entire population of the occupied territories.

The 3 Israeli prisoners detained by the Syrian authorities were visited on 19 March and 18 April.

The 291 Syrian prisoners held at the Meggido camp in Israel were visited on 2 April, in conformity with the customary procedure of the ICRC.

ICRC delegates, on 7 and 9 March, also visited persons detained by the "Lebanese forces" and the "Amal" and "PSP" movements.

The activities of the Tracing Agency offices also continued. In March, 8,145 family messages and in April 8,482 family messages were exchanged

between displaced persons or detainees and their families, in Lebanon or abroad. In the same two months, 162 missing persons were found and 10 persons were transferred or repatriated by the ICRC delegation.

### **Israel and the occupied territories**

During the latter half of 1983 and the first few months of 1984, the ICRC delegation in Israel and the sub-delegations in Jerusalem and Gaza continued their activities. After September 1983, Lebanese territory south of the Awali River became the responsibility of the delegation in Tel Aviv.

ICRC delegates continued to visit the places of detention. In principle, a complete visit is made to each prison once a year, and special visits are arranged when special events indicate the need.

In Israel and the occupied territories, 44 visits were carried out during the latter half of 1983 in 15 prisons, with 3,225 protected persons. Special visits were made to prisons in Jenin, Ramallah (2 visits), Damoun, Kishon, Neve Tirzah (4 visits) and Ramleh (2 visits). The delegates in Jerusalem visited detainees under interrogation in the prisons of Hebron, Ramallah, Nablus and in the police stations Moscobieh and Kishon. In addition, regular weekly visits were made to the military prison of Far'a. All the police stations in the region between Jerusalem and the Jordan were visited.

The sub-delegation for Gaza is responsible for four prisons — Ashkelon, Beersheba, Gaza and Nafha — with a total of about 1,700 detainees. The delegates also visited, twice a week, the detainees under interrogation in the Gaza and Ashkelon prisons and, on seven occasions, in the various police stations in the Gaza Strip.

The delegates also made 12 visits to the passengers and crews of 2 ships captured by the Israeli navy, seeing 50 prisoners.

The ICRC delegation continued its assistance programme in the prisons, supplying medical assistance, distributing books, games and winter clothing and providing transport for families coming to visit their relatives.

In addition, the delegation arranged the transfer of 12 persons released by the Israeli authorities: 6 to Jordan, 2 to Syria and 4 to Lebanon.

Tracing Agency activities continued. More than 524,000 family messages were received and forwarded by the delegation in the latter half of the year, an average of 2,900 a day.

**Jordan**

The principal activity of the ICRC delegation in Amman during the latter half of 1983 and the beginning of 1984 was the protection of detained persons in places of detention and in places of interrogation. The ICRC delegates visited these places regularly — the places of interrogation being visited in principle every two weeks — and in conformity with the customary procedure of the ICRC.

Agency activities continued and remained substantial, with tracing requests for missing persons coming from Israel and the occupied territories and from other ICRC delegations. During visits to places of detention in Jordan, such requests were also made to the delegates, who passed them on to other delegations or to ICRC headquarters in Geneva.

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## **Fifteenth Conference of the Arab Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies**

The Fifteenth Conference of the Arab Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies took place in Sana'a, in the Yemen Arab Republic, from 31 March to 2 April, under the chairmanship of Mr. Abdul Ghani Ashi, Secretary-General of the Arab Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. The ICRC was represented by its President, Mr. Alexandre Hay, accompanied by Mr. Jean Hoefliger, delegate-general for the Middle East and Mr. C. Bäuerd, regional delegate for the Arabian Peninsula. Also taking part in the Conference was Dr. Ahmed Abu Goura, president of the Jordan Red Crescent Society and chairman of the Standing Commission of the International Red Cross, who played a very active role throughout the meetings.

The Conference adopted a number of resolutions, some of which concern the ICRC and its activities and which are summarized below:

- The Conference thanks the ICRC for its efforts within the sphere of its humanitarian tasks; it requests the ICRC to expand its activities in Arab countries and to increase its aid to the Palestinian people;
- The Conference requests the ICRC to assist the Afghan refugees in Pakistan;
- The Conference invites the Arab National Societies to approach their respective governments in order to encourage them to accede to the 1977 Protocols;
- The Conference requests the National Societies and governments to increase their material support to the ICRC.

**Joint Commission  
of the Empress Shōken Fund  
No. 75**

Geneva, May 1984.

**SIXTY-THIRD DISTRIBUTION OF INCOME**

The Joint Commission entrusted with the distribution of the income of the Empress Shōken Fund met in Geneva on 3 April 1984. The Japanese Red Cross Society was represented by H. E. Ambassador Kazuo Chiba.

The Commission noted the statement of accounts and the situation of the Fund as at 31 December 1983 and confirmed that the balance available amounted to S.Fr. 225,589.07.

In examining the applications, the Joint Commission reviewed the experiences of the past few years. The Commission noted that the criteria (a.b.c.) it had established for allocation were still valid:

- a. to restrict the number of allocations and thereby increase the allocations so as to enable the beneficiary National Societies to implement their plans;
- b. to uphold only those from developing National Societies unable to have their projects financed otherwise and, among such Societies, whenever feasible those which have hitherto benefited least from assistance from the Shōken Fund;
- c. to refrain from considering requests from National Societies which have not conformed to the requirements under article 5ter

of the Regulations, according to which the beneficiary National Societies are expected to report on the use of the allocations received.

The Joint Commission further decided that:

- i. allocations be transferred to the beneficiaries only upon presentation of either invoice or proof of purchase;
- ii. allocations remaining unclaimed or unused after six months of such allocations are to be withdrawn and added to the amount available for the next distribution.

Sixteen National Societies and the Henry Dunant Institute submitted requests for allocations from the 63rd distribution of income and the Joint Commission decided to make the following grants based on the above-mentioned criteria:

*Benin Red Cross Society*: SFr 8,000  
for the purchase of wheelchairs

*Haitian Red Cross Society*: SFr 50,000  
for the purchase of equipment for blood transfusion

*Nepal Red Cross Society*: SFr 45,000  
for the purchase of an ambulance

*Rwandese Red Cross Society*: SFr 50,000  
for the purchase of a vehicle and first aid kits

*Sierra Leone Red Cross Society*: SFr 30,000  
for the purchase of a vehicle for blood transfusion

*Togolese Red Cross Society*: SFr 13,000  
for the purchase of motorcycles

*Henry Dunant Institute*: SFr 25,000  
for scholarships for candidates to attend the Henry Dunant Institute courses

The Joint Commission also decided that the unused balance of SFr 4,589.07 would be added to the income available for the 63rd distribution.

In accordance with article 5 ter of the Regulations, the beneficiary National Societies are required to report in due course to the Secretariat

of the Joint Commission on the use which has been made of the allocations received. The Joint Commission would like these reports, accompanied by photographs if possible, to reach it at the latest by the end of the year during which the allocations are used. It furthermore reminds beneficiaries of article 5 bis of the Regulations, which prohibits them assigning the grant for purposes other than those specified, without the previous consent of the Commission.

In accordance with the Regulations, the 1984 income will be distributed in 1985. To help National Societies submit applications in conformity with the Regulations, the Joint Commission has decided to send, as in the past year, model application forms to all National Societies.

**The Joint Commission wishes to remind National Societies that such requests must indicate the purposes for which the allocations will be used, in order for them to be considered; they must also, as far as possible, be accompanied by plans of financing. Requests must be submitted to the Secretariat of the Joint Commission before 31 December 1984.**

*For the Joint Commission*

*League of Red Cross Societies*

H. Høegh  
T. Konoe (Secretary)  
B. Bergman

*International Committee  
of the Red Cross*

M. Aubert (Chairman)  
M. Martin  
S. Nessi

## Empress Shôken Fund

*BALANCE SHEET AS AT DECEMBER 31, 1983  
(expressed in Swiss Francs)*

ASSETS	SFr	LIABILITIES AND OWN FUNDS	SFr	SFr
Securities in portfolio:		Capital as at 1.1.1983 . . .		3,192,150.69
Bonds in Swiss Francs (market value: <i>SFr 2,380,000.—</i> ) . . . .	2,180,499.05	<i>Plus:</i>		
Bonds in foreign currencies (market value: <i>SFr 997,000.—</i> ) . . . .	<u>1,037,183.75</u>	Contribution from Japanese Government . . . .	91,006.—	
	3,217,682.80	Contribution from Japanese Red Cross . . . .	43,365.14	
Fixed deposits:		Contributions from Japanese visitors . . . . .	1,621.—	<u>135,992.14</u>
Crédit Lyonnais, Genève	857,500.—			3,328,142.83
Debtors		Funds available at 31.12.1983 . . . . .		225,589.07
Account receivable with- holding tax recoverable . . . . .	28,826.05	Provisions:		
League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (current account) . . . .	<u>28,197.50</u>	Reserve against fluctuations		429,528.20
	57,023.55	Reservé for administrative expenses: Balance brought forward from previous year . . . .	23,353.24	
Cash at Bank:		Transfer from the income statement as per Regu- lations . . . . .	<u>6,852.10</u>	
Messrs. Hentsch & Cie, Genève . . . . .	36,511.97		30,205.34	
Crédit Suisse, Genève . . . . .	1,556.25	<i>Less:</i>		
	<u>38,068.22</u>	Administrative expenses for the year 1983 . . . . .	7,238.12	22,967.22
		Commitments:		
		Allocations to be withdrawn		<u>164,047.25</u>
<b>Total . . . . .</b>	<u><b>4,170,274.57</b></u>	<b>Total . . . . .</b>		<b>4,170,274.57</b>

**STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1983**

**SFr**

**INCOME**

Interest income from securities . . . . .	170,042.90
Interest on bank deposits . . . . .	<u>58,360.02</u>
	228,402.92

**EXPENSES**

3% of total income above transferred to the Provision for administrative expenses (article 7 of the statutes of the Fund) . . . . .	6,852.10
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**RESULTS**

Excess of income over expenditure for 1983 . . . . .	<u>221,550.82</u>
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**STATEMENT OF APPROPRIATION**

Balance carried forward from previous year . . . . .	214,038.25
<i>Less:</i>	
Sixty-second distribution of income for the year 1982 . . . . .	<u>210,000.—</u>
<i>Unused balance</i> . . . . .	<u>4,038.25</u>
Excess of income over expenditure for the year 1983 . . . . .	<u>221,550.82</u>
 BALANCE AS AT DECEMBER 31, 1983 AS PER BALANCE SHEET . . . . .	 <u>225,589.07</u>

The accounts of the Empress Shôken Fund have been audited by la Société Fiduciaire OFOR S.A. The financial report is obtainable from the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

## BOOKS AND REVIEWS

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### VOLUNTARY SERVICE BY THE RED CROSS IN PRESENT-DAY SOCIETY<sup>1</sup>

The activities by the Red Cross, within the National Red Cross Societies, rely to a great extent on voluntary work. One of the seven fundamental principles of the Red Cross specifically states that the Red Cross "is a voluntary relief organization not prompted in any manner by desire for gain". Nevertheless the concept of voluntary service is neither universally understood nor uniformly applied.

Several successive Red Cross Conferences have placed the examination of this matter on their agendas, namely: the Third Balkans Conference in Athens in 1979 (in its September-October 1979 issue the *Review* published three papers which had been read at that meeting), the Third European Conference, in Budapest, in 1981 and the Twenty-fourth International Conference, in Manila, in November 1981. These Conferences put forward proposals or adopted resolutions asking the Henry Dunant Institute to undertake an overall study of the concept of voluntary service. The work which has just been published by the Institute, under the signature of its Director, Mr. Jacques Meurant, is the outcome of an inquiry conducted amongst a large number of National Societies.

This study endeavours to show the various types of voluntary service within the context of the activities of the Red Cross and to analyse them in the light of the experience of the National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and the international Red Cross institutions. The book also tries to examine the role of the Red Cross voluntary service within the various kinds of societies and civilizations known to us today and see whether it is able to renew itself and adapt to changing requirements in the industrialized countries and the developing countries.

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<sup>1</sup> *Le service volontaire de la Croix-Rouge dans la société d'aujourd'hui* by Jacques Meurant. Henry Dunant Institute, Geneva, 1984, 202 pages. In French; editions in other languages will appear shortly.

Moreover, over the last twenty years, close consideration has been given not only in the Red Cross itself but in other and widely varying circles as well, to the different ways in which the individual person and citizen takes an active part in the life of his village or city. Attention has also been given to participation by entire groups of populations in improving their living standards within a community or region. To sketch a general picture of the Red Cross volunteer workers and describe the various kinds of work they do is, after all, to examine the extent to which the Red Cross reflects and responds to this need to take part in those structures and in those programmes.

The study goes one step further: it attempts to gain a better understanding of the voluntary workers actively involved in Red Cross service and of what they are doing; it strives to identify their place within the National Societies and to examine their situation relative to the regular paid staff of the Red Cross.

Thus the book reaches concrete conclusions in that it puts forward a number of suggestions to the National Societies for dealing with special difficulties in recruiting and organizing their volunteer workers; it suggests methods as to how they should be trained and guided with a view to optimizing voluntary services. Furthermore, the National Societies are today witnessing changes in the motivations and needs of their volunteer workers and these changes inevitably give rise to the question of the kind of recompense or remuneration they receive in exchange for their commitment and services. This study of the concept of voluntary service aims to make recommendations or set out guidelines for National Societies concerning voluntary work in order to adapt the role and future action of the Red Cross to a modern world which is undergoing profound changes.

In brief, the study published by the Henry Dunant Institute should permit of a clearer definition of voluntary work carried out within the Red Cross, its evolution, its inherent value and its scope. As in the case of other private and non-governmental organizations, for the Red Cross too the principle of voluntary service is a crucial issue. The future of the Red Cross, if not indeed (as some people believe) its very survival, depends on it.

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## INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS HANDBOOK

The ICRC and the League, in collaboration with the Henry Dunant Institute, are currently preparing the twelfth edition of the International Red Cross Handbook. The French text<sup>1</sup> was published in February 1983. We are pleased to announce that the English version is now off the press.<sup>2</sup> The translation in Spanish will follow in the next months.

This version in English is of course similar to the French. We already described its contents in the September-October issue of *International Review*. The first part of the Handbook is devoted to international humanitarian law currently in force and reproduces the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and their 1977 Additional Protocols. The second part contains the statutes and internal regulations of the Red Cross and of its various constituent bodies, with the revisions and amendments of the past few years. The third part is made up of a selection of resolutions adopted by the International Red Cross Conference, the Council of Delegates and the League General Assembly.

A number of important texts are printed in a special way to draw immediate attention:

- the Fundamental Principles of the Red Cross, as proclaimed by the Twentieth International Red Cross Conference at Vienna in 1965;
- the fundamental rules of international humanitarian law applicable in armed conflicts, which summarize the approximately 600 articles of this law;
- a historical review of the Red Cross, a one-page table of the most outstanding events and dates in the hundred and twenty years of its existence;
- notes on the nature and activities of the National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, the ICRC and the League;
- a table showing the principal recognized protective signs.

The Handbook will be very useful to all readers interested in the Red Cross and humanitarian principles and laws.

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<sup>1</sup> *Manuel de la Croix-Rouge internationale*, février 1983. 768 pages.

<sup>2</sup> *International Red Cross Handbook*, Geneva, July 1983. 744 pages. Both *Manuel* and *Handbook* are available from the ICRC, the League or the Henry Dunant Institute, Geneva.

## DEVELOPMENT AND PRINCIPLES OF INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW <sup>1</sup>

The new work by Jean Pictet, former vice-president of the ICRC, which the Henry-Dunant Institute has just published jointly with Editions A. Pedone, Paris, is based on a series of lectures given in July 1982 in a course at the University of Strasbourg, organized by the International Institute of Human Rights.

After tracing the evolution of humanitarian thought and practice of the States from ancient times to the present day, the author gives an historical account of how the four Geneva Conventions and the additional Protocols were drawn up. This leads into a discussion of the fundamental principles of international humanitarian law, the principles common to humanitarian law and to human rights, and the principles applying to the victims of conflicts and to martial law. In the final section, Mr. Pictet answers some basic questions and criticisms that are often heard: Does the attempt to reduce the suffering inseparable from war weaken efforts to stop war? Is it possible to limit the evils generated by conflicts? Is this actually desirable? The author finally considers the profound nature of international humanitarian law and how it relates to the State and the individual.

Written in a clear, direct style and containing numerous examples from real life, this work is essential reading for all who are interested in humanitarian thought and law, or who seek a means of dissemination accessible to all.

*Jacques Meurant*

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<sup>1</sup> Jean Pictet: *Développement et principes du droit international humanitaire*. Institut Henry-Dunant, Geneva, and Editions A. Pedone, Paris, 1983. 118 pages. Available in French only.

## **Studies and Essays on International Humanitarian Law and Red Cross Principles in honour of Jean Pictet**

For the 70th birthday of Jean Pictet, the ICRC and Martinus Nijhoff Publishers will publish in October 1984 a volume of *Studies and Essays on International Humanitarian Law*. This new and unique publication is a collection of essays and studies written by some eighty most eminent figures of the Red Cross and specialists in international humanitarian law. This book will fully reflect the scope, influence and diversity of the activities of Mr. Jean Pictet as a legal scholar, teacher, Red Cross man and outstanding author.

Prefaced by Messrs Max Petitpierre and Pierre Graber, former Presidents of the Swiss Confederation, and by Mr. Alexandre Hay, President of the ICRC, the book will include a biography of Mr. Jean Pictet and a list of his publications. The contributions of the collaborators will be divided into five chapters: I. Problems relating to the 1949 Geneva Conventions; II. Problems relating to the 1977 Additional Protocols; III. General Problems of International Humanitarian Law; IV. Problems of Human Rights and of General Public International Law in relation to International Humanitarian Law; V. Theory and Practice of the International Red Cross. The book will also contain a comprehensive bibliography on the subjects mentioned above, tables of international legal instruments and a subject index.

*Pre-publication price:* 75 Swiss Francs or 37.50 US dollars (until 31 July 1984).

Subscribers' names will be published in this work.

*Normal price:* 100 Swiss Francs or 50 US dollars (after 31 July 1984).

*Orders* to be sent to: International Committee of the Red Cross  
17, avenue de la Paix  
1211 Geneva, Switzerland

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

ADOPTED 21 JUNE 1973

**ART. 1. — *International Committee of the Red Cross***

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

2. It shall be a constituent part of the International Red Cross.<sup>1</sup>

**ART. 2. — *Legal Status***

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

**ART. 3. — *Headquarters and Emblem***

The headquarters of the ICRC shall be in Geneva.

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

**ART. 4. — *Role***

1. The special role of the ICRC shall be:

- (a) to maintain the fundamental principles of the Red Cross as proclaimed by the XXth International Conference of the Red Cross;
- (b) to recognize any newly established or reconstituted National Red Cross Society which fulfils the conditions for recognition in force, and to notify other National Societies of such recognition;
- (c) to undertake the tasks incumbent on it under the Geneva Conventions, to work for the faithful application of these Conventions and to take cognizance of any complaints regarding alleged breaches of the humanitarian Conventions;
- (d) to take action in its capacity as a neutral institution, especially in case of war, civil war or internal strife; to endeavour to ensure at all times that the military and civilian victims of such conflicts and of their direct results receive protection and assistance, and to serve in humanitarian matters, as an intermediary between the parties;
- (e) to ensure the operation of the Central Information Agencies provided for in the Geneva Conventions;
- (f) to contribute, in view of such conflicts, to the preparation and development of medical personnel and medical equipment, in co-operation with the Red Cross organizations, the medical services of the armed forces, and other competent authorities;
- (g) to work for the continual improvement of humanitarian international law and for the better understanding and diffusion of the Geneva Conventions and to prepare for their possible extension;
- (h) to accept the mandates entrusted to it by the International Conferences of the Red Cross.

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

**ART. 6 (first paragraph). — *Membership of the ICRC***

The ICRC shall co-opt its members from among Swiss citizens. It shall comprise fifteen to twenty-five members.

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<sup>1</sup> The International Red Cross comprises the National Red Cross Societies, the International Committee of the Red Cross and the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. The term "National Red Cross Societies" includes the Red Crescent Societies.

## 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, *1030 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. Bizuzov, *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 Hammarskjöldsg. 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, 3<sup>a</sup> 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 2338, 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, 1. 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*.