

NOVEMBER 1961

**INTERNATIONAL REVIEW**  
**OF THE**  
**RED CROSS**

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**INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS**  
**GENEVA**

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# INTERNATIONAL REVIEW OF THE RED CROSS

FIRST YEAR — No. 8

NOVEMBER 1961

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## FRENCH EDITION OF THE REVIEW

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

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## SUPPLEMENTS TO THE REVIEW

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### SPANISH

Las reuniones de la Cruz Roja internacional en Praga. — Informaciones del mundo entero.

### GERMAN

Die Versammlungen des Internationalen Roten Kreuzes in Prag. — Nachrichten aus Nah und Fern.

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## The Meetings of the International Red Cross in Prague

**Board of Governors.** — It is for the Secretariat of the League of Red Cross Societies, in its own publications, to report on the 26th session of its Board of Governors, which was held in Prague from September 30 to October 7, 1961, under the chairmanship of Mr. John MacAulay, and to comment on the numerous decisions which were made on this occasion.

For its part, the International Committee, which as usual had been kindly invited to send observers to these League meetings, will confine itself to presenting below the wording of the two resolutions adopted at the proposal of the Yugoslav Red Cross, both of them referring to aid to the victims of internal disturbances. The International Committee finds a definite encouragement and support for the work which it unceasingly develops on behalf of this category of persons.

*The Board of Governors,*

*considering that the victims of armed conflicts not of an international character are not always adequately protected,*

*considering that the rôle of the Red Cross is to work for the implementation and improvement of protection of victims of armed conflicts,*

*bearing in mind the resolutions of previous sessions of the International Conference of the Red Cross, especially Resolution No. XIV of the XVth*

## THE MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS IN PRAGUE

*Conference and Resolutions Nos. XVII and XIX of the XIXth Conference, demanding efficient application of the humanitarian principles to the victims of these conflicts,*

*requests the International Committee of the Red Cross to study, in co-operation with the National Societies and with regard in particular to Article 3 common to the four Geneva Conventions, the means of improving the legal protection of victims concerned as well as the problem of their relief,*

*also requests the International Committee of the Red Cross to submit a report on this question, as well as all suitable proposals, to the next International Conference of the Red Cross.*

*The Board of Governors,*

*considering that it is the rôle of the Red Cross to work for the alleviation of suffering among the victims of all kinds of armed conflicts, by work directed towards the extension of humanitarian law as well as by practical action in the form of immediate assistance to these victims,*

*considering that the preparation of drafts for the extension of humanitarian law in respect of the victims of so-termed internal conflicts and the approval of these drafts will take a certain time, namely several years,*

*considering that we are at the present time witnessing great suffering among the victims of conflicts in various countries, as for example in Algeria, the Congo and Angola, and that these victims cannot await the new provisions of humanitarian law since the situation calls for urgent action,*

*appeals to the parties concerned to observe immediately the humanitarian principles recognized by all nations and*

*calls upon the International Committee of the Red Cross, the League of Red Cross Societies and the National Societies concerned to use their authority, prestige and resources so that the suffering of these victims, be they refugees, regrouped displaced persons or others, may be alleviated as speedily as possible.*

**Council of delegates.** — The Council of Delegates, which groups the constituent elements of the International Red Cross, that is, the International Committee, the League and the National Societies, met on October 3 and 5, 1961. It is an entirely different body from the Board of Governors. Numerous delegates from 62 National Societies filled the vast Conference hall of the Hôtel International in Prague. As a rule, the Council of Delegates meets shortly before each International Conference of the Red Cross, in order to settle questions of procedure. This was the first time that it met during the interval between two Conferences and dealt with fundamental

questions. This meeting was therefore of particular importance. The fact that it had been considered necessary to convene the Council was because certain questions were to be decided upon which concerned primarily the International Committee. The undertaking proved to be most encouraging.

The Council of Delegates was opened by Mr. A. François-Poncet, Chairman of the Standing Commission, and presided over by Mr. Léopold Boissier, President of the International Committee of the Red Cross.

The first and most important question concerned the adoption of a Declaration of the fundamental Principles of the Red Cross. As will be remembered, following the publication of Mr. Jean S. Pictet's book *Red Cross Principles*, the wish was expressed in various quarters for a concise and systematic official declaration of the doctrine governing our institution. In this connection, we should like to add that the *Revue internationale* has on several occasions referred to the standing which Mr. Pictet's book enjoys in many countries. It has now been translated into five languages and various National Red Cross Societies have based their documentary material and reports on it. In Japan, for instance, the Junior Red Cross use it as a guide for its action and efforts to popularize the Geneva Conventions.

The Standing Commission had therefore appointed a Working Party consisting of representatives of the International Committee and the League to prepare a draft of an official declaration of doctrine. Subsequently, after taking into due consideration the opinions expressed by the National Societies, the Commission decided on the wording of this declaration, which was submitted to the Council of Delegates.

The discussion opened with a detailed report by Mr. A. François-Poncet and was lively and even heated. However, a fine spirit of conciliation and mutual understanding, as well as noble thought, reigned throughout the debates, so that this important text was finally voted unanimously. The XXth International Conference of the Red Cross — which will be held in Geneva in 1963 on the occasion of the Red Cross Centenary — will be called upon to give this declaration its final approval, the purport of which is as follows :

RED CROSS PRINCIPLES

- Humanity**      *The Red Cross, born of a desire to bring assistance without discrimination to the wounded on the battlefield, endeavours — in its international and national capacity — to prevent and alleviate human suffering wherever it may be found. Its purpose is to protect life and health and to ensure respect for the human being. It promotes mutual understanding, friendship, co-operation and lasting peacing amongst all peoples.*
- Impartiality**      *It makes no discrimination as to nationality, race, religious beliefs, class or political opinions. It endeavours only to relieve suffering, giving priority to the most urgent cases of distress.*
- Neutrality**      *In order to continue to enjoy the confidence of all, the Red Cross may not take sides in hostilities or engage at any time in controversies of a political, racial, religious or ideological nature.*
- Independence**      *The Red Cross is independent. The National Societies, while auxiliaries in the humanitarian services of their governments and subject to the laws of their respective countries, must always maintain their autonomy so that they may be able at all times to act in accordance with Red Cross principles.*
- Voluntary Service**      *The Red Cross is a voluntary relief organization not prompted in any manner by desire for gain.*
- Unity**      *There can be only one Red Cross Society in any one country. It must be open to all. It must carry on its humanitarian work throughout its territory.*
- Universality**      *The Red Cross is a world-wide institution in which all Societies have equal status and share equal responsibilities and duties in helping each other.*

The other items on the agenda also aroused keen interest and gave rise to statements from delegations from all parts of the world.

## THE MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS IN PRAGUE

The need has been felt for some time to set up a ruling concerning the use of the red cross sign by the National Societies. The Geneva Conventions provide no more than a few fundamental rules. As far as details are concerned, the use of the emblem varies considerably from country to country and a large degree of doubt continues to reign. In Prague the International Committee presented the first outline of a complete ruling on the use of the red cross sign. This draft will be given a final version at the Conference of 1963, after the National Societies have been called upon to express their opinions on the subject and after the question has been more thoroughly examined. This is the wording of the resolution passed on this item :

*The Council of Delegates,*

*having studied the reports submitted by the South African Red Cross and the International Committee of the Red Cross on the employment of the Red Cross emblem by National Societies, as well as the opinions expressed by delegates of the National Societies,*

*considers it desirable, as do the authors of these reports, to establish standard regulations which will permit all National Societies and their members to use the signs of the red cross, red crescent or red lion and sun in accordance with international stipulations,*

*invites National Societies to acquaint the International Committee of the Red Cross with their experiences and views in this connection, and*

*invites the International Committee of the Red Cross, together with the League, to prepare detailed draft regulations on the use of the emblem for submission to the next International Conference of the Red Cross.*

Let us pass on to another question. As we all know, the Geneva Conventions of 1949 have not yet ensured complete and adequate protection for civilian medical and hospital personnel. Several years ago, therefore, the International Committee of the Red Cross, the World Medical Association and the International Committee of Military Medicine and Pharmacy called together a working party, which drew up draft regulations in this connection. This same working party recommended the use of a very ancient symbol, the staff of Aesculapius, red on a white ground, in order to designate civilian doctors and members of the civilian hospital personnel who are not entitled to wear the red cross sign. Perhaps the means has

## THE MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS IN PRAGUE

thus been found to put an end to the abuses to which the red cross emblem was always exposed.

The results of this work were submitted to the Council of Delegates, which passed the following resolution :

*The Council of Delegates,*

*recognizing the need of ensuring for the medical professions the free exercise of their duties in time of conflict of internal disturbances, and recognizing, moreover, the value which a special distinctive sign, which could be the staff of Aesculapius, red on a white ground, would have for the members of this personnel,*

*approves the report on this matter submitted by the International Committee of the Red Cross,*

*recommends the National Societies to approach, together with the medical organizations of their countries, their Governments in order to obtain the implementation at the proposals contained therein,*

*calls upon the National Societies to report on the measures taken in this connection in their countries at the next International Conference of the Red Cross,*

*requests the International Committee of the Red Cross to continue to study this very important problem with the help of experts and to report to the next International Conference of the Red Cross.*

A further item which held the attention of the Council of Delegates concerned the co-operation of the National Red Cross Societies in the so-called Civil Defence services. The National Societies are often called upon to provide the necessary hospital personnel for these Civil Defence services. This gives rise to new ties of co-operation between these Societies and their Governments. However, the National Red Cross Societies must nonetheless retain their autonomy, individuality and their right to wear the red cross sign. The Irish Red Cross requested that this question be entered on the agenda and a joint report was prepared by the International Committee and the League in this connection. Finally, at the proposal of the German Red Cross in the Federal Republic and the Swiss Red Cross, the following resolution was adopted:

*The Council of Delegates*

*recognizing the importance of the problem raised by the Irish Red Cross in its memorandum on the co-operation of National Red Cross Societies in Civil Defence,*



*Opening address at the Board of Governors, given by Dr. František Janouch,  
President of the Czechoslovak Red Cross.*

#### MEETINGS OF THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS AT PRAGUE

*A session of the Standing Commission presided over  
by Mr. A. François-Poncet*



## THE MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS IN PRAGUE

*having also considered the joint report submitted by the International Committee of the Red Cross and the League of Red Cross Societies on this subject,*

- 1) *confirms that the co-operation of National Red Cross Societies in government efforts aiming at protecting the civilian population in the event of an armed conflict constitutes a natural task for these Societies and is in keeping with the principles of the Red Cross ;*
- 2) *recommends that the National Societies — in the agreements concluded with the authorities of their countries for establishing the scope and terms of their participation in Civil Defence — endeavour to lay down conditions which will enable their personnel participating in this defence to be clearly recognizable as Red Cross personnel, and to maintain the necessary ties with their National Society ;*
- 3) *voices the wish that the International Committee of the Red Cross may actively continue its work in view of strengthening, within international humanitarian law, the immunity of non-military Civil Defence bodies, in particular by means of the adoption of a standard distinctive sign.*

All these resolutions, which for the most part were adopted unanimously, will enable the international bodies of the Red Cross, and in particular the International Committee, to actively continue their efforts for aiding and enlarging still further the activities of the world-wide Red Cross movement on behalf of mankind.

**Other meetings.** — With the friendly agreement of the League, the International Committee held an information meeting on October 5. A large audience attended this meeting, which was presided over by Mr. Léopold Boissier, President of the International Committee. After Mr. F. Siordet, member of the Committee, had reminded the listeners of the principles governing the International Committee's action and the circumstances in which it is called upon to act, Mr. R. Gallopin, Executive Director, outlined the main tasks on which the Committee is engaged at the present moment, in particular the Algerian and Laotian conflicts and those of the Congo and Bizerta. Finally, Mr. J. Pictet, Director for General Affairs, insisted on the necessity of the widest possible distribution of the Geneva Conventions. He also urgently appealed to the National Societies to ensure that the new means of information which the Committee now has at its disposal — for example,

the English edition of the *Revue internationale* and the *Information Notes* — be as widely distributed as possible and in particular that each local Red Cross branch receives copies.

The Standing Commission of the International Red Cross, for its part, met in Prague under the chairmanship of Mr. A. François-Poncet<sup>1</sup>. It gave its full approval of the first draft agenda for the XXth International Conference of the Red Cross (Geneva, 1963). The main theme of this Conference, which will be held on the occasion of the Red Cross Centenary and will be of particular importance, could be at the same time: "A hundred years in the service of mankind" and "The Red Cross on the threshold of its second century". Indeed, if the Conference can assess the extent of the work already accomplished, it must also look ahead, in Henry Dunant's spirit, and ask itself how this work can be carried out better and more extensively in the future.

Various other committees took the opportunity offered them by the Board of Governors' meeting and also met in Prague: the Health Advisory Committee, Centenary Committee and the Advisory Committee of the Junior Red Cross.

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The organization of the meetings was perfect from all points of view. All the delegates were given a particularly kind and generous welcome by the Czechoslovak authorities and Red Cross, and will not easily forget the pleasant and profitable days they spent in the fine capital of the country where this year's meetings were held.

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<sup>1</sup> *Plate*

# INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

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## SUNDRY ACTIVITIES

### News Items

#### Congo

The search for missing persons in the Orientale and Kivu provinces. — *A member of the delegation of the International Committee of the Red Cross in the Congo, Mr. Georges Olivet, has just carried out a mission lasting more than a month in the Orientale and Kivu Provinces with the object of continuing searches for persons missing as a result of the events which took place last year. This consisted of clearing up more than a hundred cases for which enquiries had been made and to which the ICRC delegation in Leopoldville had not yet been able to reply.*

*The steps taken by Mr. Olivet proved themselves to be successful, especially in the Orientale province where, out of 82 enquiries, 57 led to positive results. In the Kivu province, 8 out of 23 cases have been settled, but the long distances and the scattered population made searches more difficult. These, however, are still continuing thanks notably to the co-operation of the administrators of that territory to whom Mr. Olivet has sent telegraphic enquiries.*

*The delegate had also to verify whether Katanga civilians and military personnel detained in the Orientale and Kivu provinces had been released in accordance with the orders of the Central Government in Leopoldville. Mr. Olivet has established that these persons had in fact been released or were on the point of being so.*

Visits to persons detained at Leopoldville. — *Mr. Jean de Preux, delegate of the ICRC, visited 9 prisoners held by the United Nations in Martini camp at Leopoldville. These were European*

*officers and NCO's in the Katanga service captured in September and who are shortly to be repatriated. The delegate arranged for them to be medically examined by a Swiss doctor.*

**The ICRC and the release of prisoners in Katanga.** — *The International Committee of the Red Cross has recorded with satisfaction the news of the recent release of military prisoners by the United Nations and the Katanga authorities. Two of its delegates were present at these releases at Elisabethville and in North Katanga. At that particular moment one of them was carrying out a further round of visits to military prisoners of the Katanga forces held at Albertville, Manono, Nyunzu and Kolwezi. The delegates of the ICRC had previously twice visited prisoners of the two sides detained at Jadotville and Elisabethville. (This text was the subject of a Press Release on October 27).*

**ICRC mission in Greece.** — *As is known, a new mission of the International Committee of the Red Cross composed of one delegate, Mr. Germain Colladon, and of a doctor-delegate, René Bergez, has been in Greece since August, where it is carrying out a tour of internment and detention camps. In particular, the delegates have visited the political exiles of Aghios Efstratios, to whom they handed over various relief supplies. They have also visited certain penal establishments and distributed some relief supplies to convicts in those places.*

*This relief included provisions, medicaments and clothing supplied from gifts received by the ICRC as well as from its own resources.*

*This tour, which continued in September and October, follows on the ICRC missions which have visited Greece at regular intervals since 1947.*

**In search of missing persons in Laos.** — *At the end of September the delegate of the ICRC in Vientiane, Mr. André Durand, received news concerning the American nationals missing in Laos, on which question he had taken certain steps during his visit to Xieng Khouang during the summer. The capture of 7 of the 16 people for whom searches were being made, including 4 military, has been confirmed through the intermediary of the international armistice Commission. The death of one of the missing persons has been announced, while seven military are presumed dead. There is still no news of one civilian. This informa-*

tion was immediately transmitted to the American Red Cross, by the Central Tracing Agency.

A new ICRC delegate, Dr Jürg Baer, arrived in Vientiane on the 13th October to assist Mr. Durand.

**Visit to political detainees in the Philippines.** — *The delegate of the International Committee of the Red Cross, Mr. John W. Mittner, accompanied by Dr. T. Calasanz, Director of the Philippine Red Cross, has visited political prisoners detained in Fort McKinley at Manila. This was the third visit made by the delegate to these detainees to whom he distributed relief.*

**The Red Cross and the repatriation of vietnamese refugees in Thailand.** — *An important repatriation operation<sup>1</sup> has been in progress since the beginning of 1960 under the auspices of the Thai Red Cross and the Red Cross of the People's Republic of Viet Nam. This concerns Vietnamese who fled to Thailand during the first phase of the war in Indochina.*

*As Thailand and the People's Republic of Viet Nam do not maintain diplomatic relations, the International Committee of the Red Cross acted as intermediary between the Red Cross Societies of the two countries. In 1959, representatives of the two Societies held meetings in Rangoon in the presence of an ICRC delegate, which resulted in an agreement on the methods of repatriation.*

*The first departure of refugees took place on the 5th January 1960. By the end of September 1961 23,834 Vietnamese had been repatriated from Thailand in 39 convoys. ICRC delegates were present at several departures.*

**Termination of the mission at Bizerta.** — *The International Committee of the Red Cross has terminated its activity connected with the conflict at Bizerta, after having obtained several positive results. Its delegate, Mr. Michel Martin, has now returned to Geneva from Tunis.*

*During the first phase of the conflict, this activity consisted in intervening with the military authorities of the two sides for the purpose of concluding a cease-fire ensuring the evacuation of the wounded and killed. Later, the delegate made a number of varied representations on behalf of the prisoners and those who had been interned. He regularly*

<sup>1</sup> See *Revue internationale*, November 1959 and March 1960.

*visited the 780 Tunisian civilians and military held by the French forces, as well as the 220 French, of which 30 were military, interned at Sousse by the Tunisians. These visits were also made the occasion for making representations with a view to ameliorating conditions of detention. In co-operation with the Tunisian Red Crescent, the delegate initiated discussions which resulted in the exchange of prisoners which took place in September.*

**The transmission of messages to the Middle East.** — *The tense situation in the Middle East continues to impose various tasks on the Central Tracing Agency. This applies chiefly to the transmission of family messages, an activity which the ICRC undertakes when circumstances do not allow of a direct exchange of news between private individuals.*

*In this way, ever since the Partition of Palestine, the Central Tracing Agency transmits numerous messages sent by Arab families living in Israel, to their relations in one or other of the Arab countries. In this connection, we would point out that in the past few months the volume of this exchange of messages between the countries of the Arab world and Israel (and vice-versa) has shown a renewed increase. Thus, during 1960, 625 messages were transmitted and 369 in the first half of 1961.*

*According to established arrangements, these messages should be brief and of a strictly family character. Anyone wishing to send news to his family fills in a form placed at his disposal and which consists of the name and address of the sender and a space for the text of the message and for the reply. The model of these forms, which was drawn up by the ICRC at the beginning of the Second World War, has been adopted by the National Societies.*

*In principle, the Central Agency transmits messages in the original as these are received, which represents a considerable saving in time. On the other hand, in certain cases it is obliged to transcribe the messages received on ICRC forms.*

**Red Cross Centenary.** — *The preparatory work for the Red Cross Centenary in 1963 has been continued throughout the summer. The Celebrations Committee has held a meeting during which it dealt in particular with questions of information and took note of the opinions*

*expressed by editors of the Swiss press, which it has approved. Furthermore, the study has been continued of deciding upon a suitable emblem for the Centenary. A number of Swiss draughtsmen have accepted to participate in a free competition and other countries have also submitted some interesting designs. The winning entry will be chosen this autumn.*

*In connection with the Red Cross Centenary Celebrations, it should be mentioned that the Compagnie Générale de Navigation sur le Lac Léman has decided to launch a new vessel in 1963, which will bear the name, "Henry Dunant".*

*Finally, it should be noted that the General Commission (the Secretariat responsible for co-ordinating the preparatory work) is now autonomous. It is under the direct control of the Celebrations Committee, which is itself composed of representatives of the ICRC, the League and the Swiss Red Cross, as well as of the Federal, Cantonal and Municipal authorities.*

**Distinction.** — *The Ethiopian Red Cross has awarded Mr. Léopold Boissier, President of the ICRC, its highest distinction, the Gold Medal of His Imperial Majesty, the Emperor Haile Sélassié.*

*This decoration was conferred upon him at the beginning of October in Prague by Mrs. Senedu Gabru, who was in charge of the delegation of the Ethiopian Red Cross at the meetings of the International Red Cross, and who has been appointed Vice-President of the Board of Governors of the League.*

**Course at the ICRC.** — *The International Review referred in its last number to the official recognition given by the ICRC to the Togolese Red Cross.*

*The Secretary-General of this new National Society, Mr. Boniface T. Dovi, undertook a course of study at the International Committee. The discussions which he had with various members of the staff of the ICRC were chiefly connected with the Geneva Conventions, humanitarian law and the tasks and problems facing the new National Societies. He made himself acquainted with the activities of the Red Cross during the past few years and studied the working of the Central Tracing Agency.*

*Mr. Dovi, who also undertook a course at the League, was able to appreciate the problems facing the international institutions of the*

*Red Cross and the important tasks which have to be undertaken today by newly formed National Societies.*

**Arabic-language competition.** — *The large-scale competition which the ICRC, with the help of the League, organized for listeners in Arab countries met with great success. The jury has just ended its work and has decided to offer prizes to 130 participants living in most of the Arab countries from Irak to Morocco, including Syria, Jordan, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, the Sheikhdoms of the Persian Gulf area, the Sudan, Libya and Tunisia.*

*As the Revue internationale pointed out in its issue of December 1960, the competition was carried out by the Arabic-language section of the ICRC Broadcasting Office and formed the subject of regular weekly broadcasts from October 1960 to March 1961. It received support and active co-operation from the National Red Crescent and Red Cross Societies, as well as from the official authorities and the press of the Arab countries.*

*The participants were given a choice of seven different subjects dealing with the Red Cross idea, principles and activities. The jury was composed of independent Arab personalities resident in Geneva and working in the field of teaching and in the international organizations.*

*The first prize consists in a fortnight's visit to Geneva by Swissair. Other prizes included two Philips radio sets, eight Ernest Borel watches, two Thorens razors, a number of Caran d'Ache ball-point pens and various books and publications.*

*After the best works had been translated into French, so that non-Arab Red Cross personalities could judge them, Mr. Numan Abdel Dayim, 28 years of age, a teacher in Jerusalem, Jordan, was chosen as the winner and will therefore be received in Geneva at the headquarters of the international institutions of the Red Cross. He wrote on the subject "The Red Cross as a factor for rapprochement between nations".*

*Mr. Abdel Dayim is himself a victim of war. After being wounded during the Palestinian conflict in 1948, he had a leg amputated. He was aided by the International Committee of the Red Cross, which provided him with an artificial limb and thus enabled him to resume a normal life. In a letter to the ICRC, Mr. Abdel Dayim wrote: "I owe my life to the Red Cross".*

*The second prize-winner is Mr. Abdel Jalil Hassan Nour, State official in the Sudan, and the third is Mr. Mustafa Obeid Farahat, a Palestinian refugee in Gaza. The other prize-winners live in various other Arab countries, in particular in Egypt and Syria.*

**Visitors to the ICRC.** — *During the period extending from the end of August to the middle of October, the ICRC had the privilege of welcoming to its headquarters a number of personalities, including the following: Mr. François Silou, first Vice-President of the Congolese Red Cross; Mrs. Suad Al Radi, Chairman of the Women's Committee of the Iraqi Red Crescent together with Dr. Vincent Asfar, who directs the Medical Commission of that Committee; Mr. Jules Lefèvre-Paul, Delegate General of the French Red Cross in Algeria; General P. Glain, the new Head of the Department of Foreign Relations of the French Red Cross; the President of the Republic of Korea National Red Cross, Mr. Doo-Sun Choi; Dr. Chadli Zouiten, Vice-President of the Tunisian Red Crescent and Mr. Salah Boulakbèche, Secretary General of that National Society; Dr. Edward Hambro, Vice-President of the Norwegian Red Cross; Miss Maud Williamson, Vice-Chairman of the Northumberland Branch of the British Red Cross, and Miss Audrey Fletcher, of the Home Department of that Society; His Excellency Mr. Masauri Takata, Japanese Deputy-Minister of Health and National Insurance, accompanied by Mr. Kuchi Saito, Head of the Liaison Office of International Affairs; Miss H. MacArthur, National Director of the Nursing Services of the Canadian Red Cross; Mrs. J. T. Berryman, Director of the Office of Volunteers of the Eastern Area, American Red Cross; Mrs. Paola Menada, National Inspector of Voluntary Nurses of the Italian Red Cross; Miss Ellen Moller, Nursing Advisor of the Danish Red Cross; Miss M. E. Craven, Chief Nursing Officer of the British Red Cross; Miss Stavroula Papamicrouli, a member of the board of the Nursing Corps of the Greek Red Cross and Miss Hélène Spyropoulou, Nursing Advisor of that Society; Miss Egle Cisbani, National Superintendent of professional nurses and Health Assistants of the Italian Red Cross; Miss Ester Sannum, Director of the Norwegian Red Cross Nursing School at Drammen and Nursing Advisor to the consultative Committee of that Society; Mrs. Gladys Habil Abounada, of the Lebanese Red Cross; Mr. J. B. Mandilas, Financial Advisor to the Nigerian*

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*Red Cross ; Dr. J. N. Vazifdar, Secretary of the Bombay Branch of the Indian Red Cross ; the President of the Lourenço-Marques Committee of the Portuguese Red Cross, Dr. Afonso Paez ; Mrs. Frank Fordyce, President of the Polk Section, of the American Red Cross ; the Permanent Representative of New Zealand to the European Office of the United Nations, Mr. Balfour Douglas Zohrab ; Mr. Paul Magallanes, Vice-President and Secretary-General of the Chilean Red Cross ; the President of the Rotary International, Mr. Joseph Abey ; Mr. Romeo Marasigan, Advisor of the Philippines National Red Cross ; Mr. B. Sokalich of the New Zealand Red Cross ; Mr. Masutaro Inoue, Director of the Department of Foreign Relations of the Japanese Red Cross ; Mr. Hussein M. Asfahany, Secretary-General of the Red Crescent Society of the United Arab Republic ; the Vice-Chairman of the Nigerian Red Cross, Dr. O. Adeniyi-Jones ; Dr. F. Calasanz, Director of the Philippines National Red Cross ; the Secretary-General of the Republic of Korea National Red Cross, Mr. Kim Hak Mook ; Mrs. Joe Hume Gardner, a member of the Board of Governors of the American Red Cross ; Dr. Yon Chhin, Advisory member of the Cambodian Red Cross ; Miss Irène Müller, a nurse of the German Red Cross in the Federal Republic of Germany in Lübeck ; Miss Elisabeth Eckert, Social Assistant, attached to the General Secretariat of the German Red Cross in the Federal Republic, and Miss Kläre Leist, Director of the Department of Women's Work in the German Red Cross (Landesverband Nord-Rhein-Westfalen), in Münster.*

*The International Committee has also been pleased to welcome the secretaries of the regional sections of the Swiss Red Cross who came to Geneva to visit the ICRC Departments and who were accompanied by Mr. J. Pascalis, Deputy Secretary-General of that Society.*

*Amongst other groups who have visited the Headquarters of our organization, and more especially the Central Tracing Agency, mention should be made of a party of mayors from different Japanese towns on visit to Geneva, students of the Goetheschule in Düsseldorf, about thirty people attending the seminar on the study of international organizations in Geneva, under the auspices of the "Stiftung Mitbestimmung" in Düsseldorf, a party of Swiss-German journalists, as well as forty Japanese doctors undertaking their fourth study tour in Europe.*

## THE REUNITING OF FAMILIES

This is an important activity of the Central Tracing Agency. The ICRC has in fact continued without a break the action which it has undertaken for several years, whose purpose it is to reunite or to contribute towards reuniting members of families dispersed by the second world conflict or as a result of the events which subsequently followed in Europe.

It is worth recalling in this connection that in 1960 more than 15,000 persons, adults and children, were able to rejoin close relatives who had left their countries of residence. This figure brings to more than 388,000 the number of persons, for the most part of German stock ("Volksdeutsche") who have thus been returned to their families.

The study of requests which the ICRC receives from the families concerned is dealt with by the " Reuniting of families " section of the Central Tracing Agency.

This section makes a very careful examination of all such requests. It collects from those making the enquiries the necessary information for completing the file and makes certain that the persons who are asked to rejoin their relatives belong to categories which come under the scope of this action, namely :

- Transfer of minors to their parents (the age limit being generally fixed at 18 years) ;
- Reuniting of married couples to the place at which one of the two resides who provides for the maintenance of the family ;
- Transfer of aged or ill persons to members of their families who can take care of them.

As regards each of these categories, it is in addition essential that the family established abroad has obtained an entry visa for the person concerned.

After having collected the necessary details, the "Reuniting of families" section forwards the file which has just been compiled

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to the National Red Cross Society of the country in which the person resides, whose transfer is sought, requesting that Society to support representations made personally by the person concerned to his authorities with the object of obtaining an exit visa.

If it is a question of a disabled person or a child, the National Society of the country of residence makes arrangements for the journey, in co-operation with the Red Cross Societies of the countries of transit and of destination.

Most of the cases which are at present being dealt with concern "Volksdeutsche" established in Central and Eastern Europe. The ICRC, however, finds that it has also to facilitate the repatriation of nationals of the Eastern countries who have emigrated to Western Europe or overseas, wishing to return to their country of origin.

It should be emphasized that the efforts accomplished by the International Committee to give families which have been dispersed the joy of recreating their family circle, is based on the ever more active and effective support of National Societies wishing to co-operate in this profoundly humanitarian action.

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## **ANNUAL REPORT OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE**

The annual report of the International Committee of the Red Cross has appeared recently and contains a considerable amount of information on the Institution's activities during 1960.

As in previous years, the report is divided into two parts : practical activities and general activities. Matters relating to the financial position of the ICRC and to the special funds which it administers, form a third section. The practical tasks are grouped under geographical regions and one can see that the action of the ICRC extends to numerous countries and to several continents, thus demonstrating that it is at the disposal of all those who require its aid.

In so far as general activities are concerned, the *Annual Report* describes all that has been done in various spheres. Special mention should be made of references to the implementing and developing of humanitarian law, in which it will be observed that the ICRC has continued its efforts in 1960 to render the texts of the Geneva Conventions universal, of which it is the promoter. Ratification of the four Conventions or accession to these Conventions is now general, and the ICRC has published the commentary on the Second Convention, the last volume in the series, and thus terminating the work to which the International Committee had engaged itself.

An account is also given of the action of the ICRC in the field of information and of its relations with international organizations.

Here are some examples of practical activities which are described : those dealing with the Central Tracing Agency and with the International Tracing Service at Arolsen. Finally, the report includes a table summarizing the principal relief actions which have been carried out in a number of countries in 1960.

### **CENTRAL TRACING AGENCY**

During the second quarter of 1960, the ICRC informed Governments and National Red Cross Societies that it had decided to

redesignate the " Central Prisoners of War Agency ", which no longer conformed with the new Geneva Conventions, and which was to be known in future as the " Central Tracing Agency ". In fact, the Agency, which had been created in 1939, had had to extend its field of action to various categories of war victims, civilian internees, missing and displaced persons, families which had been dispersed, etc.

Since 1945, the Agency has continued to collect and communicate information concerning the military and civilian victims of international or internal conflicts. Its rôle in favour of prisoners of war was confirmed and defined in 1949 by the Third Geneva Convention, whilst the Fourth Convention entrusted the ICRC with the task at the same time of setting up an information agency for civilian persons. When these provisions were put into effect, the ICRC decided to adopt the new designation as from July 1, 1960.

The conflicts and the troubles which have broken out in various parts of the world during the past year had the expected repercussions on the usual activities of the Agency ; more than 50,000 requests for information were registered, requiring the opening of 25,000 searches and the transmitting of one thousand messages. In 31% of cases enquiries achieved positive results. This is a remarkable achievement, if one considers that since the ending of hostilities in 1945, a very considerable number of persons for whom searches have been made, have changed their residence. If there has been a decrease in comparison with previous years in the amount of correspondence which has been received and despatched, the increasing complexity of cases coming to the Agency's notice has greatly extended the field of search. For this reason, 7,000 more enquiries were opened in 1960 than in 1959.

The overall result of these many and varied interventions of the Central Agency, can be considered as being very satisfactory. Furthermore, the Agency's relations with the National Red Cross Societies and with other official and private institutions continue to be marked by an excellent spirit of co-operation.

### **Tracing service in the Congo**

From mid-July the delegates which the ICRC had sent to the former Belgian Congo noted the necessity for establishing a tracing

service in Leopoldville. The white population, Belgians for the most part, officials, settlers and missionaries in their hundreds, had sought refuge in relatively peaceful areas or else had hurriedly crossed the frontier. The Central Agency received an ever-increasing number of requests for information on missing persons, or on persons presumed to be missing, whilst the ICRC in Leopoldville had requests made to it from all directions.

At the beginning of August, the ICRC detached one of its colleagues, Mr. E. L. Jacquet, with a view to his organizing a tracing service on the spot. It was not long before the Central Agency for its part received replies to enquiries which had been opened in every province in the Congo. Breakdowns in the transport and postal services at times slowed down, but did not completely interrupt the exchange of messages between persons who were being sought and their families. After five months of activity and more than a thousand enquiries some 400 requests concerning about 2,000 persons were all to be dealt with by the Leopoldville bureau, of which 96 % showed positive results.

A similar bureau, which had been established at Elisabethville for searches in the province of Katanga was no less satisfactory.

**German Section.** — The number of persons who have been able to leave various countries in Eastern Europe, in particular Rumania, to rejoin their families in Germany, Austria or in other countries, increased during 1960.

Requests for information relative to the First World War reached an average of twenty each month. These were made chiefly by persons who had reached retiring age and who wished to supply proof that they had served in the army.

The German Section also received frequent requests largely from persons who had left Europe and who wished to obtain certificates of death of parents, testimonials or other certificates. The Service also received requests from all parts of the world for searches connected in particular with German families which had stayed in the USSR, or from families of which one member had been enrolled in the German army.

**British Section.** — This Section continued throughout 1960 the same activities as it had undertaken the previous year and was

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occupied with various searches, some of which went back to the 1914-1918 period. Since a large part of the archives had been destroyed during the bombardments in England, the Agency, in fact, whose documentation relative to the two world wars is complete, possesses information which cannot be obtained elsewhere.

**Italian Section.** — The number of cases which were dealt with (3,280 in 1959) reached a figure of 5,006 during the past year. This increase can be accounted for by the fact, that the Italian Ministry of Finance transmitted a large number of enquiries concerning members of the Italian armed forces, who had been interned by the Germans and who wished to obtain documents of health whilst in hospital during their captivity.

By the terms of agreements concluded in November 1960 between the Italian Section and the Italian Ministry of Finance, the latter can make any representations which it sees fit to the appropriate bodies.

Finally it should be noted that the Italian Ministry of Defence and the Inter-ministerial committee in Rome for establishing proofs of decease have continued to make requests to the Italian Section in order to assist them, thanks to the resources of its vast card-index, in identifying combatants, prisoners of war and interned military personnel who had died during the Second World War and in discovering the fate of military personnel presumed to be dead.

**Greek Section.** — The Greek Section dealt chiefly in 1960 with a fairly considerable number of Greek refugees in various Eastern and Central European countries as a result of the civil war. In co-operation with the Greek Red Cross, the Section has continued its efforts to identify some of the combatants who had been killed during the civil war.

**USSR Section.** — Direct correspondence has continued to increase in 1960 as well as the number of requests from the USSR on forms or by letter. A greater number of replies were also received from the Alliance of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies of the USSR, which for its part forwarded an increasing number of questions and requests for searches.

**French Section.** — This section undertook the same tasks in 1960 as in previous years. It corresponded regularly with the “ Provisional Government of the Algerian Republic ” with a view to obtaining the nominal roll of French nationals who had been captured by the ALN, but these representations led unfortunately to no result.

**Polish Section.** — The number of cases dealt with did not decrease in comparison with previous years. The Section dealt chiefly with questions concerning compensation for Poles who had been interned in German concentration camps. Since August 1960 this correspondence has noticeably increased. Requests for attestations continued to be received especially from the United States. A fairly large number of cases of persons of whom there had been no news since the war were able to be settled in a satisfactory manner.

**Stateless Persons Section.** — New possibilities for emigration to the United States because of new legislation passed by Congress, resulted in an increase in activity for this Section in 1960. Furthermore the Agency carried out various enquiries and transmitted 97 family messages. 470 new cases were dealt with and the departure of 238 stateless persons was registered during the year.

**Hungarian Section.** — This Section continued to deal with the reuniting of families which had been separated following on the events of 1956-1957. This work included the facilitation of the departure of children or adults from Hungary, or else the organization of the return to Hungary of persons who had emigrated.

Other Sections of the Agency which have not been expressly mentioned here have continued to carry out their activities as previously. Generally speaking these include tasks similar to those which have been mentioned above.

### INTERNATIONAL TRACING SERVICE IN AROlsen

The agreements which were concluded in 1955 by which the ICRC has undertaken the administration of the International Tracing Service (ITS) in Arolsen (German Federal Republic) were

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extended on May 12, 1960, for a further period of five years<sup>1</sup>. In 1960 this Service continued to carry out a considerable amount of work, although the number of cases dealt with decreased slightly.

The number of applications and certificates received by the ITS in 1960 reached the figure of 114,900 (125,871 in 1959), which included :

- 49,029 requests for certificates to obtain compensation ;
- 48,025 individual enquiries and requests for photostat copies of medical records ;
- 17,646 applications for death certificates ;
- 200 requests for information of a historical or statistical nature.

The ITS issued 271,887 documents (320,072 in 1959) including :

- 93,987 positive or negative replies to individual enquiries and requests for photostat copies of medical records and death certificates ;
- 117,900 certificates or reports concerning requests for documents to obtain compensation, including 20,840 certificates of imprisonment, 19,776 certificates of residence, 58,709 temporary reports, 78,385 negative replies and 200 reports of a historical or statistical nature.

It should be noted that, if less applications have been made to the ITS since 1958, there has on the other hand been a continual increase in searches for persons of whom no news is available (1957 : 15% = 27/700 of applications received ; 1958 : 19 % ; 1959 : 26 % and in 1960 : 36 % = 41,260 cases).

In the central card-index, 782,214 new cards were established (719,275 in 1959) and 840,471 classified (725,605 in 1959).

Finally, in 1960, numerous documents were placed at the disposal of the ITS, either in the original or by photostat copies, by the National Red Cross Societies, as well as by the authorities and organizations of various countries.

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<sup>1</sup> See Annual Report 1959, p. 39-40 and previous reports.

## TRAINING OF MEDICAL PERSONNEL AND ASSISTANCE TO THE WAR-DISABLED

Article VI, para 5 of the statutes of the International Red Cross lies at the basis of all the activities of the Medical Personnel Section of the ICRC. It in fact stipulates that the ICRC, in the event of a conflict, should contribute "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."

This section must therefore keep itself informed of all arrangements which have been taken in countries which have had great experience in the recruitment, training and the organization of professional and auxiliary medical personnel. It must also help countries which are in the process of development and which wish to train sufficient numbers of persons capable of serving in the event of war, civil war, internal disturbances or natural disasters. It is obvious that the ICRC should have a thorough knowledge of the situation in these countries, in order to be in a position to adapt the training of this personnel to their own particular case. The International Committee can keep itself informed of their needs and of the help which it can bring them through missions and by taking part in international nursing conferences.

The Medical Personnel Section carried out this programme during 1960. It obtained the necessary information through either the specialized institutions for training medical personnel such as the World Health Organization or through the International Council of Nurses (ICN).

The Head of the section, Miss A. Pfirter, continued throughout 1960 the series of missions which she had undertaken previously. In April, she went to Hungary, where she had discussions with the directors of the Hungarian Red Cross, in connection chiefly with the training of medical personnel.

In May she attended the Thirteenth World Health Assembly in Geneva and the eleventh course organized by the World Federation of United Nations Associations. Miss Pfirter also visited the Advanced School of Nursing of the Swiss Red Cross, where she spoke of

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the principles of the Red Cross, the Geneva Conventions and the activities of the ICRC, as well as of the organization of voluntary medical personnel in the event of a conflict.

The Medical Personnel Section kept in close contact with the National Nursing Associations, to which it forwarded requests for information from nurses wishing to work abroad under the exchange scheme organized by the International Council of Nurses. The year was noted furthermore for the large number of visits made by nurses, either individually or in groups, from Europe, America, Asia, Africa and Oceania, who were interested in the activities of the Medical Personnel Section.

Finally, the Section maintained regular contact with the National Red Cross Societies with whom it exchanged documentation.

*War Disablement Section.* — This section continued in 1960 its action on behalf of the young Italian blind and of those whose eyesight was seriously impaired. Since the beginning of this action, 53 children and youths received treatment ; during the course of the year 7 new patients were treated and operated on in Geneva and four former patients returned to the ophthalmological clinic for checks or for new treatment.

Continuing its relief action for war-disabled Algerian refugees in Morocco, the ICRC despatched 25 pairs of crutches to Rabat, fitted eight persons who had suffered amputation with artificial legs and supplied orthopaedic shoes to 3 disabled persons. Furthermore, the ICRC equipped the artificial limb workshop, which has been recently established at Sarajevo, with machines and special tools for the manufacture of certain types of artificial limbs. It also made a gift of 100 Braille watches to the French Association of the Blind in Paris.

The War Disablement Section also received many other individual requests for relief. Since it was not in a position to comply with these, it has endeavoured to interest other relief organizations, National Red Cross Societies, specialized institutions and social services in the matter.

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SUMMARY TABLE OF RELIEF ACTIONS IN 1960  
(classified by countries and categories of persons assisted)

		Value in Sw. Fr.
<i>Algeria</i> . . . .	Displaced civilian population . . . .	336,500.—
	Persons interned and detained . . . .	44,000.—
	Victims of events . . . . .	9,863.—
<i>Austria</i> . . . .	War-disabled . . . . .	3,838.—
<i>Bulgaria</i> . . . .	Civilian population . . . . .	1,684.—
<i>Cameroon</i> . . . .	Civilian population . . . . .	1,721.—
<i>Chile</i> . . . . .	Earthquake victims . . . . .	16,000.—
<i>Congo</i> . . . . .	Civilian population . . . . .	138,600.—
<i>Egypt</i> . . . . .	Detained persons . . . . .	583.—
<i>Finland</i> . . . .	War-blinded . . . . .	750.—
<i>France</i> . . . . .	Persons interned and detained . . . .	10,323.—
	Civilian population . . . . .	1,171.—
	War-blinded . . . . .	6,650.—
<i>Germany</i> <i>(Fed. Rep.)</i> . . . .	Refugees and persons repatriated . . . .	9,273.—
<i>Greece</i> . . . . .	Persons interned and detained . . . .	12,631.—
	Civilian population . . . . .	297.—
<i>Hungary</i> . . . .	Civilian population . . . . .	9,219.—
<i>India</i> . . . . .	Tibetan refugees . . . . .	13,925.—
<i>Indonesia</i> . . . .	Civilian population . . . . .	9,722.—
<i>Iran</i> . . . . .	Earthquake victims . . . . .	5,000.—
<i>Israel</i> . . . . .	War-disabled . . . . .	700.—
<i>Italy</i> . . . . .	Civilian population . . . . .	3,953.—
	Blind children and young people . . . .	9,359.—
	Tidal-wave victims . . . . .	5,000.—
<i>Japan</i> . . . . .	Victims of the conflict . . . . .	14,000.—
<i>Laos</i> . . . . .	Earthquake victims (Agadir) . . . . .	5,051.—
	Algerian war-disabled . . . . .	4,734.—
	Tibetan refugees . . . . .	11,200.—
<i>Poland</i> . . . . .	Civilian population . . . . .	21,700.—
	War-disabled . . . . .	11,025.—
<i>Spain</i> . . . . .	Detained persons . . . . .	750.—
<i>Yugoslavia</i> . . . .	Artificial limb workshop at Sarajevo . . . .	4,813.—
<i>Miscellaneous</i> . . . .	Despatch of artificial limbs . . . . .	3,705.—
	Despatch of medicaments . . . . .	609.—
	Stateless persons . . . . .	2,411.—
	Total . . . .	730,760.—

## RESIGNATION

Miss Lucie Odier has asked to be relieved of her duties and the International Committee has taken note of her resignation with the greatest regret.

Miss Odier, who became a nurse in 1914, has been a member of the Committee since 1930 and has carried out important work in the humanitarian field, undertaking numerous missions and displaying the greatest devotion to duty at all times. Hers has been a considerable and extremely varied activity in the service of the Red Cross and it is therefore impossible to single out more than a few of the essential tasks to which she devoted herself. From the very beginning she made nursing and relief problems her special concern, to which she later added the problems of the disabled.

In the field of relief, Miss Odier directed all the actions undertaken during the wars in China and Spain. Then, at the beginning of the second world war she set up the first relief bureau, which gave rise to the relief Division, and from then on she devoted herself to this work with inexhaustible energy. At that time, she undertook several important missions for the ICRC, particularly in London, where she managed to have the blockade lifted on foodstuffs destined to the prisoners of war in Germany.

In the sphere of nursing care, Miss Odier gave proof of the greatest competence. A member of the Florence Nightingale Foundation, she represented the ICRC on numerous missions in several countries and she played a leading rôle at the Conference held in Paris in 1937, which gathered experts together to prepare voluntary auxiliaries. Then, in 1945, she went to Northern Italy, to organize the hospitals which were due to receive sick Italian refugees returning home.

But she has also co-operated constantly in the study of general problems which have been put to the ICRC ; thus she played a very active part in the International Red Cross Conference in Tokyo, London, Stockholm and Toronto. Following the end of

the war, she worked on problems relative to the appointment and formation of nurses and she worked closely on the questions of help to the disabled and on questions referring to medical equipment. She has published several articles in the *Revue internationale* on her experiences and missions, and, amongst others, she has brought out a brochure entitled : *Some advice to nurses and other members of the medical services of the armed forces*, which has been translated into practically every language. Miss Odier has participated in the work of the Conseil de Présidence of the ICRC for some time and was also, hitherto, a member of the Committees of the Florence Nightingale Medal, the Shôken Fund and the Augusta Fund.

The International Committee, anxious to place on record its deep gratitude for the distinguished services which Miss Odier has rendered to the Red Cross cause throughout her career, has nominated her an honorary member and has conferred on her the title of Honorary Vice-President for life.

It was during the ceremony which took place on October 12, which is reported elsewhere, that Mr. Boissier announced the resignation of Miss Odier and expressed the profound regrets of the Organization of which he is President. He was delighted, however, that the ICRC would be able to count on her presence and her support.

Miss Odier, greatly moved, said a few words herself, thanking the International Committee for the honour which it had accorded her, and affirming that she would always remain faithful to the Red Cross and ready to lend it her assistance.<sup>1</sup>

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

**Mr. CARL J. BURCKHARDT RECEIVES THE  
GOLD MEDAL OF THE ICRC**

The International Committee has awarded its Gold Medal to Mr. Carl J. Burckhardt on the occasion of his 70th birthday in recognition of the eminent services which he has rendered. This high honour had only previously been bestowed upon Mr. Max Huber, Mr. Jacques Chenevière and Miss Lucie Odier.

A member of the ICRC for nearly thirty years and then President for a brief period, Mr. Burckhardt has continued to make available to the Committee advice of rare competence and judgment inspired by high aims and a broad view of events.

The Gold Medal was handed to him on October 12, 1961, during a ceremony which gathered together numerous members of the Committee, the directors and heads of the Organization's departments, as well as several people who had the privilege of working closely with Mr. Burckhardt<sup>1</sup>.

The President of the ICRC, Mr. Boissier, spoke of the great merits of this man of action, thinker and writer, and as a friend of his for more than fifty years, recalled some childhood memories and recounted a moving episode which took place when both of them were about fifteen years old.

*... Once we met an old beggar who asked us for alms. Without hesitation Carl Burckhardt emptied his purse into his hand and when I expressed astonishment at this generosity, which was depriving him of cakes, he replied "that will give more pleasure to him than to me".*

*I have not forgotten this small event, in a life which has included so many other events, both big and small; because when Carl Burckhardt has come face to face with men in their suffering, he always has had the same instinctive reaction: to give, because "that will give more pleasure to him than to me".*

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



*Opening address at the Board of Governors, given by Dr. František Janouch,  
President of the Czechoslovak Red Cross.*

#### MEETINGS OF THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS AT PRAGUE

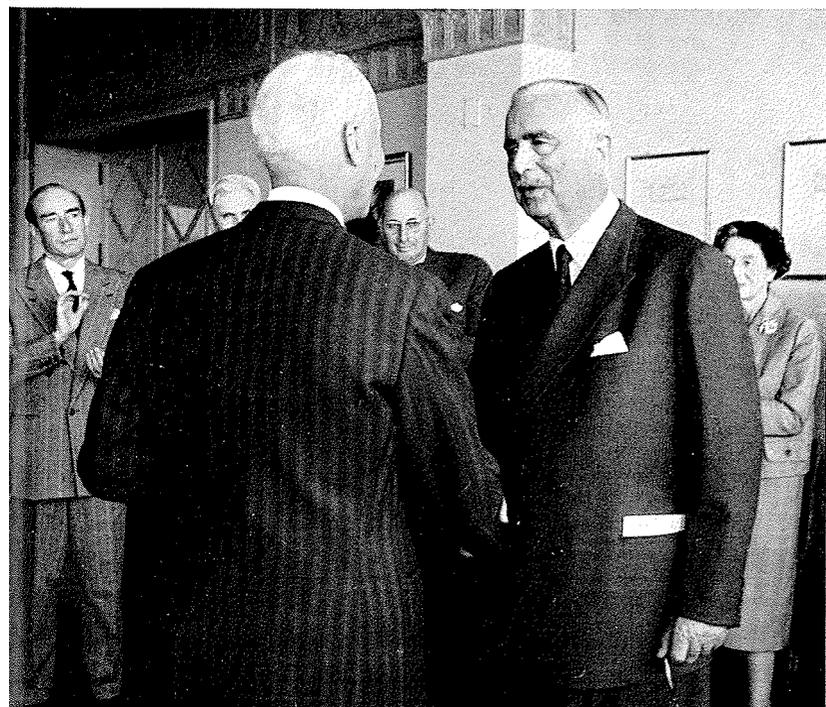
*A session of the Standing Commission presided over  
by Mr. A. François-Poncet*





*Miss Lucie Odier says a few words on the occasion of her resignation and nomination as honorary Vice President (on the right, Messrs. Jacques Chenevière and Léopold Boissier).*

*The President, Mr. Boissier hands the gold medal of the ICRC to Mr. Carl J. Burckhardt, ex-President*



*Throughout his career, he has retained an unquenchable human curiosity, a profound intuition and a sympathy not for humanity, because he is not fond of big words and abstractions, but for the man, whoever he may be, in distress, misery and loneliness.*

*Carl Burckhardt has thus become a most eminent member of the International Committee of the Red Cross, because in all his activities he has remembered that this Committee does not work to obey any particular philosophy but to serve men, individually, each one receiving his share of our Institution's solicitude.*

*As far back as 1923, our colleague visited Greek prisoners in Anatolia on the Committee's behalf. One of the results was that little masterpiece entitled *Kleinasiatische Reise*, in which the author shows side by side his divinatory gifts, the enthusiasm and wondrous discoveries of his youth.*

*He entered the Committee in 1933 and worked continuously with Mr. Max Huber. During the war, he was active on behalf of the victims of the conflict in Eastern Europe, visited a Soviet prisoner-of-war camp in Germany, concerned himself with the condition of detainees and political deportees, constantly stimulated the work of the Committee in fresh fields of action and devoted all his energy in the sphere of relief where, with the aid of admirably chosen colleagues, he created from nothing a powerful transport and distribution organization whose convoys crossed oceans and frontiers.*

*He was nominated President on December 4, 1944, but some months later ceded to the request of the Federal Council to assume the post of Swiss Minister in Paris.*

*He later returned to the Committee to resume his place and to give us with customary modesty, advice which was backed by irreplaceable experience.*

*Wherever Carl Burckhardt goes he leaves his mark, whether it be in the minds of those who have met him or who have read his writings, or whether it be in the development of organizations with which he has co-operated.*

*He has continued to make his mark since childhood and I am therefore happy, as a friend and as President, to place in the hands which once gave a few francs' worth of alms to the beggar of Steckborn, the Gold Medal of the International Committee of the Red Cross.*

## INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

Mr. Carl Burckhardt replied by recalling the high ideal which inspires the intervention of the Red Cross and which very reason today justifies the existence and action of the Red Cross. He paid tribute to those who lent him their assistance during the war, first and foremost Mr. Max Huber and his ICRC colleagues, as well as those who worked closely with him. His speech was a fine tribute to the idea of the Red Cross and to its lasting value in the world of today, and he ended by saying :

*... I would like to tell you of just one of my memories. At the very beginning of 1944, after long and fruitless attempts, we had reached direct contact with Himmler, chief of the Security Service of Hitler's Reich, and for the first time we were able to enter into direct negotiations on the subject of political detainees held in concentration camps, as well as on the subject of the Jews in the hands of the German authorities. Accompanied by Hans Bachmann, I went to Austria, where, in an inn at the foot of the Arlberg, we had discussions lasting several hours with Kaltenbrunner, Himmler's representative. Red Cross history contains the results of that day. I will only say this: Kaltenbrunner signed an agreement according to which a delegate of the International Committee would be admitted to each concentration camp, on the condition that he did not leave this camp until the end of hostilities and that he shared the life of the detainees. On my return to Geneva, I called together the delegates present at our headquarters and I communicated Kaltenbrunner's monstrous proposal to them. With one accord they all, with the exception of those engaged on other urgent tasks, put themselves at our entire disposal, agreeing to share the captivity of those to whom they wished to bring help, having decided at the very moment of the final collapse, to protect them from the vengeance of the vanquished and the desperate. To go into the sequel to this event would be too long a story. What is important is that the example illustrates in a unique manner the morale of our delegates, a morale of which our unforgettable Marcel Junod offered such a shining example.*

*To my mind, the principal aim of our Organization is to bring practical and rapid aid and all that the realization of this requires, from the diplomatic preparation to the carrying into effect, conditioned by courage and resolution. In my opinion, the Committee should*

*always guard against influences which would like to turn into a pedagogic organization, a sort of Areopagus of international ethics which everyone can invoke to his own propagandist ends, which everyone can abuse and whose advice and judgment will be profitable to some and harmful to others and in the long run will only serve to strengthen discord. Let us always hold ourselves in readiness and act each time our help is required, but let us never forget our President's remark that for us discretion remains a guiding principle.*

*It only remains for me to thank you all for the great honour which you have done me today. During my career I was obliged to leave our mutual task, but I knew that I would have successors who combined all the highest qualities. The post-war period required a particular effort to give a more solid basis to our international status and to extend our material bases as well. Today, we find ourselves faced with obligations infinitely wider and more complex than during the first half of the century; they require increased political awareness and they demand from us all unstinted support for the man who, first and foremost, assumes the current responsibilities, and to whom I am happy to be able to express my very real gratitude.*

# NEWS OF NATIONAL SOCIETIES

Formerly: International Bulletin of Red Cross Societies, founded in 1869

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## Philippines

We have received the Annual Report 1960 of the Philippine National Red Cross, so that we can now outline some of this National Society's activities, among which the disaster relief action occupies the foremost place. For the past ten years, each year has brought its share of ruin to the archipelago: typhoons, tornadoes, floods, tidal waves, volcanic eruptions, earth tremors, fires, etc. Taking only 1960 as an example, these disasters resulted in over 500 dead and 1,500,000 persons receiving emergency relief from the Red Cross.

The rehabilitation programme undertaken by the Philippine National Red Cross on behalf of families stricken by the floods of 1960 included, among other things, a project called "Seeds for Survival": a collection of vegetable seeds of all kinds was organized, with the support of the public schools, and the yield distributed among the disaster-stricken families. It is easy to imagine the importance of this action. We should also like to point out that, according to its Charter, this Society is bound to "establish and maintain a system of national and international relief in time of peace and in time of war"; it is also responsible for implementing, throughout the country, the emergency relief programme during the period immediately following a national catastrophe.

In such a situation of continual watchfulness, not only the needs of the victims, but also of the wounded must be anticipated; the blood programme is therefore one of the major concerns of the Red Cross Society. In 1960, it was possible to fulfil new plans thanks to the inauguration of four new blood-bank extension services, each one of them representing, for the wounded and sick, the guarantee, as it were, that the Red Cross is able to meet the

requirements at any given moment. In addition, a gift of 39 refrigerators has now enabled this Society to set up a blood service in nearly every province and city of the country. Thus, during 1960, a total of 45,241 bottles of blood were collected and given free to 21,897 patients in 299 hospitals.

The action of the Safety Services is no less important, due to the large number of victims in need of first aid following accidents : 35,000 to 45,000 each year. Safety courses are held free of charge by a paid staff of 35 members ; in addition, the Red Cross has also started to conduct free courses for the general public for instruction in accident-prevention, first aid and life-saving, which also includes swimming lessons. By the end of 1960, these services included 33,440 volunteer safety instructors ; 425 courses had been conducted, ensuring free training for 6,647 persons, of whom 1,746 became qualified volunteer instructors in order to train other volunteers in safety education.

The Red Cross Nursing Service brings its gospel of health to the poorest parts of the town ; its staff wage an energetic fight against contagious diseases, in particular tuberculosis, which takes a heavy toll among the population, especially among the children. Over 5,000 persons living in these parts of the towns have been instructed in Mother and Child Care and Care of the Sick and Injured at Home by Red Cross staff.

Another important part of the Red Cross activity is the Military Welfare Service. According to its Charter, the Philippine National Red Cross must " furnish volunteer aid to the sick and the injured in time of peace and in time of war " and " act in matters of voluntary relief and in accord with the authorities of the Armed Forces as a medium of communication between the people and their Armed Forces ". In 1960, the nine service units of this section acted on nearly 6,000 cases. Moreover, the service arranged recreational activities in hospitals from which a total of over 74,000 patients benefited.

Finally, the Volunteer Service, which numbers over ten million members, 4,850,000 of whom are Juniors, rendered a total of about 36,000 hours of service during the year.

We do not wish to miss this opportunity of reminding our readers that the Philippine National Red Cross held its biennial

National Convention in Manila from August 25 to 27, 1961. The plenary session, which was presided over by the Society's Chairman, opened with a ceremony attended by numerous personalities, among whom General Alfred M. Gruenther, President of the American National Red Cross, who spoke on "The Red Cross and our time". At the third plenary meeting, a magistrate gave a speech on the four Geneva Conventions. During the closing ceremony, rewards were distributed and the ICRC delegate in Manila, Mr. Mittner, had the pleasure of presenting the Florence Nightingale Medal to a Philippine nurse, Miss Julita V. Sotejo.

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### U.S.S.R.

Among the many interesting articles published in the *Soviet Red Cross* (1961, No. 1), the bulletin of the Alliance of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, one is of particular interest since it describes a new initiative taken by this National Society.

Under the title "The Nurses' Bureau in action", we learn of an activity which social conditions have placed in the forefront of our present-day problems: home nursing. In the Soviet Union, as in many other countries, a sick person, living alone and dependent on himself, presents the humanitarian institutions with a problem which numerous efforts have been made to solve during the last few years; various National Societies have indeed solved it successfully, as the *International Review* has already mentioned. It is interesting to see how the Alliance is now performing this task, following on a decision of its Executive Committee.

This decision planned the setting up of a "Red Cross Nurses' Bureau" for the purpose of providing personnel trained in home nursing. After attending nursing courses, these young women are attached to the Policlinic of this Society where they carry out periods of volunteer work in a surgical ward or in the dispensary. The article stresses the fact that these candidates are given a warm

welcome by the professional staff of the hospital, which is of great help to the beginners; they receive every encouragement as they successfully complete the numerous stages which will later enable them to become excellent nurses.

The author gives a simple and direct picture of the practical aspect of the duty to be performed. We see the young nurse visiting a sick person living alone, " she inquires after his health, gives him his medicine, remakes the bed and naturally carries out all the doctor's instructions . . ." Here, as in the hospital, there is close co-operation between doctor and nurse.

However, if necessary, the nurse also performs other duties for the patient ; forgetting her scientific training, she is also willing to take over household duties, prepare meals, clean the room and perform other tasks not strictly included in a medical nurse's functions, but which bear witness to her humanity and certainly encourage the patient. That is why these nurses are always greeted with affection and gratitude.

The nurse keeps a " medical diary ", which is regularly checked by the doctor and in which she enters the number of days she has worked and the amount of time she has devoted to each patient. In this connection, those in charge of the Nurses' Bureau intend to organize " meetings in which the young nurses will give methodical accounts of the characteristic features of their work ".

The article, signed by the head doctor of a policlinic in Sverdlovsk, points out the humanitarian character of this work : " To come to the aid of sick people in a very special way, by persuading them that man is not alone at the most arduous moments of his life." An idea that is very much in keeping, in a practical and efficient way, with the Red Cross ideal.

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

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### 23rd SESSION OF THE INTERNATIONAL OFFICE OF MILITARY MEDICINE DOCUMENTATION

In its previous number, the *International Review* reported that the ICRC had been represented at the 23rd session of the International Office of Military Medicine Documentation held in Athens in September, by Mr. F. Siordet, a member of the International Committee and Mr. J.-P. Schoenholzer, of the Legal Department.

The session was almost entirely devoted to the study of the problems posed by tuberculosis in the armed forces. The question of identity discs for military personnel was also raised and the hope was expressed of having the blood group of the bearer figured on these discs. The ICRC delegates had the opportunity of stating the legal aspect of this problem.

At the request of one delegation, the session also expressed the wish to see Article 3 common to the four Geneva Conventions of 1949 — relative to conflicts not of an international character — applied in the broadest possible way, and it invited the ICRC to examine the matter, particularly with a view to enlarging the protection due to the sick and wounded and to civilian medical personnel.

The ICRC delegation was also able to draw the attention of the members of the Office to the celebrations, scheduled for 1963, in Geneva, on the occasion of the Centenary of the Red Cross, and it invited the health services of all the countries represented to participate, in one way or another, in this important anniversary. These proposals aroused great interest and were warmly welcomed.

This session of the Office was extremely well organized by the Medical Service of the British Army (Royal Army Medical Corps); the participants will retain a warm memory of Greek hospitality, which they had the opportunity of experiencing in all its many aspects.

# B O O K S

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## LE JOURNAL DE LA MÉDECINE<sup>1</sup>

by

A. SOUBIRAN AND J. DE KEARNEY

In presenting this book to the reader, G. Duhamel points out that the author has already given us a work of literary journalism on present-day medicine. Surely the history of medicine which Dr. Soubiran now offers to his colleagues and the general public is a further addition to this form of literature? Indeed, together with Dr. de Kearney, who is a specialist in the field of medical journalism, he has assembled in this first volume of a new collection a series of "reportings", dating from the Babylonian period (3,500 B.C.) to the revival of medicine, on the art of caring for and curing the diseases which afflict mankind.

This work is presented to us in the form of a modern newspaper, with various leaders, reportings and numerous illustrations. The attractive page-setting and the lack of any over-abstract terminology make it agreeable to read this compact and strictly scientific work, thanks to which one can learn and be entertained at the same time.

Each *Journal* deals with an important period in the art of healing: Babylonian, Egyptian, Greek, Alexandrian, Roman, Byzantine, Arab and Chinese medicine. As regards our own era, with the exception of the light provided by the Montpellier and Salernitan Schools, there are centuries of darkness to be crossed—with occasional flashes of light here and there—before arriving at the medical reform with Paracelsus and then the revival of medicine. Going from discovery to discovery (anatomy, physiology, pathology, surgery, mental diseases and pharmacology), this

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<sup>1</sup> Editions Segep-Kent, Paris.

first book ends with the work of William Harvey on the circulation of the blood in 1628.

It is necessary to make a choice in the stages of this struggle waged by doctors against the threats to man's physical and mental health. Thus, in the *Journal* which deals with the medical art of the Mohammedans, we find a remarkable page on the "humanization of war—Saladin and medical neutrality". The place is Jerusalem after the defeat of the Crusaders in 1187. The victorious Sultan Saladin organizes a veritable military medical service and gives the order that all the wounded are to be cared for, whether Moslems or Crusaders... The organization also looks after the European prisoners, the distribution of foodstuffs and the evacuation of the non-combatants towards the Mediterranean ports.

"Going yet further in his noble-mindedness, Saladin even provided for and accomplished the neutrality of the doctor in time of war. Richard the Lionheart's doctor, Ranulphua Besace, was authorized by the Sultan, *sub pacto pace*, to visit sick or wounded Christian prisoners."

On reading the pages concerning Saint Anthony's fire or ergotic poisoning, one cannot but remember the charitable work of the Antonites. Hastening to the call of populations periodically decimated by this disease, which came to be called gangrenous ergotism, the Antonites set up their houses at the great crossroads of the West. Thus, they built a convent with accommodation for wayfarers and a leper-hospital at Isenheim in Upper Alsace towards the end of the 13th century. It was for the church of this Antonite convent that Grunewald painted the famous altar-piece which can still be admired in Colmar. In this way, art and the care of the sick can be seen to coincide.

This book is intended as much for initiates as for the general public. It shows "how a long series of great doctors, of all times and all races, has built up little by little a bulwark of aid to the sick and of dignity which, in spite of the extraordinary developments of modern science, represents the groundwork of medicine today."

R. J.

LA COOPÉRATION INTERNATIONALE ET NOUS<sup>1</sup>

by

LOUIS VERNIERS

The Union of International Associations—the international organization responsible for the classification, study and promotion of international relations, whose Secretariat is in Brussels—has just published a booklet whose author is no stranger to the Red Cross world since among the numerous functions which he holds in various international organizations must be included that of adviser for education and youth problems to the League of Red Cross Societies. This goes to prove Mr. Louis Verniers' interest in everything concerning the future of mankind and it is this interest which stimulates the work that we should like to present to our readers.

But in order to prepare the future, the past must be known, brought close to us and its lesson understood ; this study of about 100 pages therefore opens with a brief historical introduction on the development of mankind from its origins until the present day. We see the notion of international co-operation gradually evolving and taking shape. Conceding its due place to private initiative, Mr. Verniers then mentions, first of all, the creation of the Anti-Slavery Society (1823) and that of the International Committee of the Red Cross. " Everyone knows that the International Red Cross was born of the courage and will of the young Swiss Henry Dunant, who witnessed the horrors of the battle of Solferino and tended the wounded, regardless of whether they were French, Italian or Austrian. As the founder of an international relief institution which places itself above any racial, religious or ideological discrimination, this hero of philanthropic action deserves the eternal gratitude of the whole world."

In the second chapter of this work, entitled " The world needs international co-operation ", the author gives an outline of the development of the world during the last fifty years and states that " the international organizations are the instruments for peace,

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<sup>1</sup> Union of International Associations, No. 172, Brussels, 1961.

human progress and justice for all". Then follows a review of the various categories of international organizations; in 1959 there were 149 inter-governmental and 1,060 non-governmental international organizations. In an interesting paragraph of this chapter, "The infinite variety of N.G.O.", the author reminds his readers that, chronologically speaking, these take priority over the inter-governmental organizations, and gives some illustrative figures. If in 1857 there were ten N.G.O., by 1907 there were already 224, whereas this figure had risen to nearly 1,000 by 1957. Reviewing the characteristic features of some of these N.G.O., Mr. Verniers then quotes several whose members consist of national or local groups, such as the International Council of Nurses and the League.

In Chapter IV, entitled "The mechanism of international co-operation", the reader learns, as the title implies, about the way in which each of the component parts of an international organization works and he is reminded of the need for confident co-operation between inter-governmental organizations and N.G.O. Finally, Chapter V, "Everyone benefits by international co-operation", is of particular interest since it gives a survey of the achievements of the two types of international organizations under consideration. One cannot but be struck by the manifold tasks being carried out in all countries of the world and by the results which have been achieved. Here we have a summary of all the efforts of these intergovernmental organizations for the purpose of safeguarding or restoring peace, preventing war, raising the standard of living in various less developed countries, helping groups in need, aiding children, emigrants, refugees, etc.

With regard to the achievements of the non-governmental international organizations, as was mentioned above, they are infinitely varied, due to the manifold situations in which they play a rôle. The paragraph on these achievements gives pride of place to the ICRC and the League with its National Societies. In addition to emphasizing the prestige which these two international institutions, united under the same sign, enjoy throughout the world, the author quotes various figures "which should be interpreted more with the heart than with a rational intellect". He reminds his readers of the work carried out by the ICRC and the League and concludes this paragraph with the comment that "men can rely

on the vigilance and material and moral aid of the Red Cross as much in peace-time as in time of war ”.

The final chapter is entitled “ Everyone can and owes it to himself to participate in international co-operation ”. The author turns in the first place to the young people and suggests a whole programme to them. Indeed, Mr. Verniers is well acquainted with young people, since his functions bring him into touch with the Junior Red Cross, and he knows well what can be expected from them. He therefore speaks from experience when he writes : “ A whole volume would not be sufficient to describe the hundred and one ingenious ways which the Red Cross Juniors devised in order to aid the victims of the war (prisoners, refugees, handicapped).” With regard to the adults, they must take a truly fruitful part “ in building up that peaceful world which is the age-old dream of mankind ”.

This clear and lively account, adequately illustrated with documentary material, will act as a guide as well as an encouragement for all those who consider international co-operation to be a necessary and effective means of ensuring peace.

J. Z.

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HANDBUCH DES INTERNATIONALEN  
FLÜCHTLINGSRECHTS <sup>1</sup>

This 372-page manual on the Rights of International Refugees is published by the Prince of Liechtenstein Foundation under the direction of Professor Walter Schätzel and Mr. Theodor Veiter, the Chairmen of the Committee on Legal Questions created by the Association for the Study of the World Refugee Problem (AWR). This Association has its headquarters in Vaduz and enjoys an advisory status with the United Nations.

Published at the end of the World Refugee Year, this manual gives, for the first time, a general survey of the rights of the so-

<sup>1</sup> *Wilhelm Braumüller*, Vienna and Stuttgart, 1960.

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called "international" refugees, that is to say, those who do not automatically come under the national law of the country of asylum. It gives a partial summary of the legal work carried out by the two Associations for the study of the refugee problem (AER and AWR). The first of these two associations, whose headquarters is in Strasburg, has been studying the refugee problem for over ten years.

Thirteen authors of eight different nationalities have helped in compiling this book, which deals with the following subjects: Freedom of emigration and immigration—Resettlement of ethnic groups forced to emigrate—Right of asylum—Nationality—Personal status of refugees—International protection of the property of refugees—Right to citizenship in the country of birth and right to return to the parents' country of origin—The League of Nations and aid to refugees—The United Nations and refugees—Contribution of the Council of Europe to the solution of the refugee problem—Aid to refugees and the rôle of the International Red Cross—Integration of refugees.

This handbook aims at directing international practices and providing all those who have to face refugee problems, which are so much a sign of our times and will continue to be so for some time to come, with a sort of guiding line to help them find solutions based on the law in force.

Two of these surveys are published in French: one is by Mr. Aghababian, the pioneer of international legal aid (founder of the "*Assistance Juridique Internationale*"), and concerns the integration of refugees; the second is the one on the International Red Cross and aid to refugees.

H. C.

## A GLANCE THROUGH THE REVIEWS

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### **The Red Cross World** — *Geneva, July-September 1961.*

The last number of the quarterly publication of the League of Red Cross Societies, amply illustrated, begins with a series of splendid photographs of Prague, where the 26th session of the Board of Governors of the League was held. Amongst the articles in this issue, we would draw special attention to the fine tribute to the memory of Mr. Wilfrid Phillips, Deputy Secretary-General of the League. We give extracts below of an article by Dr. Frantisek Janouch, President of the Czechoslovak Red Cross dealing with that Society's action :

“ With one out of ten of the population a Red Cross member, we have built up a health network extending to every part of the country. Our primary endeavours are to promote health education for the entire population and to improve health as well as living and working conditions by a gamut of services which extend to almost every aspect of daily life . . . .

One and a half million members of the Czechoslovak Red Cross are trained in health work. It is this army of volunteers which mans the 90,000 health posts throughout the country, or which ensures, even in the smallest community, that one member guards his neighbour's health . . . .

Promoting better working conditions in a nation's factories and agricultural life is already an enormous undertaking, but the Society does not forget the need for a healthy family and good surroundings . . . .

In many districts courses explaining basic hygiene principles and the training of children from birth to pre-school age, in which Czechoslovak Red Cross workers play a major part, have met with great success. Older children benefit from holidays in summer recreation camps and during the winter, mountain holidays, all under the care of the Society's health volunteers.

Some 10,000 “ hygienists ” from among the people are trained in special 40-hour courses and, together with the public health workers, help control the food industry and shops for hygiene in the production and sale of foodstuffs . . . .

## A GLANCE THROUGH THE REVIEWS

The Czechoslovak Red Cross has developed an extensive National Junior Red Cross Section which has a significant share in the training of young people.

One and a half million young people have been trained as youth health workers in a Junior version of the basic health course for adults. They are active in some 60,000 Junior health posts, established in each classroom. Members of these posts take part in "hobby health circles" in which any pupils interested in health promotion can improve their knowledge through a programme of out-of-school activities.

From its school beginnings, the Junior Section is now reaching outwards to outside school establishments, health schools and medical faculties, to guarantee close links between future doctors and health personnel and the Red Cross. New members are also now being found among the teenagers working in agriculture and factories . . . .

Working through its volunteer health workers, its nurses aides and its Juniors, the Czechoslovak Red Cross has, in its efforts to attain this goal, become a significant social component of a modern society."

Under the heading "The growth of the Red Cross", Mr. J. A. Mac-Aulay, Chairman of the Board of Governors of the League, introduces two young African Societies, those of Nigeria and Togo, who have just been recognized by the International Committee of the Red Cross and says in this connection :

The "family" has been growing rapidly in recent years : in 1945, 61 Societies were League members and by 1955 another 12 Societies had been recognized. This is progress of which we can be proud, but we must always bear in mind a fundamental principle of our organisation : its universality.

Our aim must always be the establishment of a Red Cross Society in every country of the world. Every nation, large or small, whether it traces its history back over the centuries or is taking its first steps in statehood, needs the Red Cross as its auxiliary . . . .

In any society there will always be projects to pioneer for which a state lacks funds or personnel. There will always be personal problems which no state, by its impersonal nature, can resolve. There will always be a relentless infliction of misery by disasters, against which no state can maintain a force ready to help.

But this work can be done by the vast numbers of men and women in all countries, at all levels of society who, though they may not know how to begin, have a desire to help . . . .

It is not easy to create from small beginnings a voluntary organization which can fulfil these demands, nor can we expect a small group of dedicated but inexperienced people to struggle on their own. For this reason the League's technical assistance programme for new Societies is being evolved to keep pace with the growth of the Red Cross family."

**Declaration of the Rights of the Child (Declaration of Geneva)**, by Kathleen Freeman, *The "World's Children," London, Vol. 41, No. 2.*

In view of the United Nations Declaration of November 20th, 1959, when the General Assembly unanimously adopted and proclaimed a Declaration of the Rights of the Child we felt that something of the history of the International Union for Child Welfare, of which the British Save the Children Fund was the founder member should be more widely known ; especially in relation to the Declaration of Geneva—the original Declaration of the Rights of the Child.

The background of events against which this history unfolds is November 1918 when Dr. Frederick Ferrière visited war-scarred Vienna for the International Committee of the Red Cross. His report on the condition of the children there and the reports of other I.C.R.C. missions in Central and Eastern Europe—reports of famine and distress, widespread epidemics and mounting tuberculosis (which was then termed 'a volume of human misery')—together with too little organized government help, all emphasized the urgent need to speed up voluntary effort. Out of such need the International Union for Child Welfare was founded.

Two important dates are associated with the creation of the Union—December 28th, 1919 and January 6th, 1920. The first is the date of the world-wide collection of funds made before the official birth of the Union, for the child victims of the war in Europe. The second date marked the official birth of the Union. At the meeting held on this date the following organizations took part as founder members : International Committee of the Red Cross, Save the Children Fund (created in London six months earlier) and the Swiss Save the Children Committee (dissolved in 1928). There were also other organizations present and their numbers were increased still further at the conference convened on February 25th to make a survey of the needs and to draw up a programme of relief work. It is interesting to note that among those early organizations which joined the Union and are still vigorously active today were : the French Save the Children Committee, the Netherlands Red Cross and the Radda Barnen Association of Sweden. Most of the other members were relief committees which disappeared when the acute distress resulting from the First World War had been relieved, or were absorbed by other bodies dealing with child welfare in a general way.

Etienne Clouzot, the first Secretary General, set up the Secretariat of the newly formed Union, a task for which his activity as Chief of Staff of the I.C.R.C. Secretariat had particularly fitted him.

During that first year the grants (made among others by the churches and by organized labour) were devoted chiefly to the relief of the children of Central Europe (Germany, Austria, Hungary, Czechoslovakia and Poland), but aid was also sent to the children of the devastated areas in

France, and from the outset an allocation was made to the Armenian children.

The Union and its members ran extensive feeding programmes for Russian children during the famine in 1921-3. Assistance was also given to Greek children from Asia Minor and to Turkish children whose country had been laid waste by the war. Meanwhile, in Central Europe, the original field of action, the needs were still great, aggravated by the collapse of the currency in Germany and elsewhere. The Balkans, the Baltic States, Poland and Czechoslovakia, which had begun to recover their economic stability, could not deal unaided with the heavy burdens created by the refugees that poured into their countries.

From the emergency distribution of foodstuffs the Union passed on to other forms of activity of a more lasting nature, for example the setting up of various kinds of institutions. It inspired the system of sponsorships which has penetrated to all parts of the world and which today, under the auspices of many different kinds of organizations still continues to provide children in distress with the individual help of a foreign sponsor.

The Union gradually began to have its own workers. These were often those who were previously serving I.C.R.C., who had first operated on behalf of the Union. Among those early workers the Hungarian Vajkai sisters deserve special mention as they remained at their post until 1949. Both realized very soon that the relief actions would serve but a temporary purpose if they were limited only to relief. Rozzi therefore turned her attention to setting up nursery schools, a key factor in the social and moral rehabilitation of the families living in the poorest quarters of Budapest; while Julie-Eve's work-schools for girls helped to bridge the gap between school and factory and gave them an opportunity of enriching their lives.

To Eglantyne Jebb, founder of the Save the Children Fund, emergency relief was not an end in itself; for she believed that with it the building up of peaceful relations was a vital necessity. The idea found expression in the Children's Charter, the first detailed text of which was framed by the Save the Children Fund. The final text, very much shorter and known today as the Declaration of Geneva, was adopted by the General Council of the Union on February 23rd, 1923. It immediately became very popular and was widely endorsed and translated into many languages. Packed into a short preamble and five brief articles, Eglantyne Jebb managed to condense all that a sorely-trying generation, which had endured eight years of war, revolutions and economic upheavals, desired to guarantee for children everywhere.

The adoption of the Declaration of Geneva was the turning point in the policy pursued by the Union and indeed in international child welfare. Progressing from its original mission as a crusade against famine, disease and death, it developed into a campaign for the well-being and health of the child, which was less spectacular perhaps, but aimed at

long-term results. Many organizations adopted the Declaration of Geneva in 1923 : space does not permit of their enumeration.

On September 24th, 1924, the Declaration of Geneva was approved by the Fifth Assembly of the League of Nations, on the proposition of Mr. Valdez Mandeville from Chile, under the Presidency of Mr. Giuseppe Motta, former President of the Swiss Confederation, who commented that the Assembly in thus voting had consecrated it as the 'World Child Welfare Charter'. Member states were urged to accept the Declaration's principles. Even at this early date it was available in thirty-seven languages, and many government delegates spoke of its potential value and influence on national legislation and child welfare programmes.

Ten years later, on September 26th, 1934, Dr. Ingeborg Aas (Norway) speaking in the League's Fifth Commission said : "I want to point out that this year marks the tenth anniversary of the adoption by the Fifth Assembly of the League of Nations of what we call 'The Declaration of Geneva', formulated by the Save the Children International Union... The Declaration of Geneva goes a step further than Part XIII of the Treaty of Versailles which foreshadows in its preamble the protection of children and young persons ; it embodies the fundamental principles of Child Welfare—the term child welfare being used in its broadest sense. It does not enter into details, since measures to be taken must vary according to the needs and conditions of each country. In approving and adopting the Declaration of Geneva, the League of Nations and its members recognized the value of the principles therein embodied and implicitly bound themselves to put these principles into practice. The tenth anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration of Geneva by the Assembly should be the opportunity of reminding the Assembly and the states members that they are all called upon to put into practice the principles of this Charter, and that they must therefore support the work of the League in this domain—through its Child Welfare Committee—as well as sustain and encourage the efforts of public and private bodies in the various states..."

We have travelled far today, but the Charter of the Rights of the Child has still to be recognized and observed, although the original Charter written by Eglantyne Jebb in 1922 on the Mont Salève overlooking the Lake of Geneva expressed the principles which have guided men and women in their work for the world's children irrespective of race, colour or creed—wherever those children may be.

In April 1946 the Social Commission of the United Nations gave renewed authority to the Declaration by asserting that 'the welfare of children, physically, mentally and spiritually must be the first concern of every nation, particularly having regard to the ravages of two world wars. The terms of the Declaration of Geneva should be as binding on the peoples of the world today as they were in 1924'. In 1948 its essence and some of its phrases were incorporated in the United Nations Declaration

## BOOKS

of the Rights of the Child and, with certain verbal revisions, the Declaration of Geneva was reaffirmed as the charter of the International Union for Child Welfare.

A year later the United Nations adopted and proclaimed its own Declaration of the Rights of the Child, thus establishing the great principle that voluntary effort can, and in fact does, sometimes inspire governmental action. While admitting that many of the rights and freedoms proclaimed in the United Nations Charter were already mentioned in its Universal Declaration of Human Rights adopted by the General Assembly in 1948, the special needs of the child can justify a separate declaration which many believe has its roots in the original Declaration.



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

(AGREED AND AMENDED ON SEPTEMBER 25, 1952)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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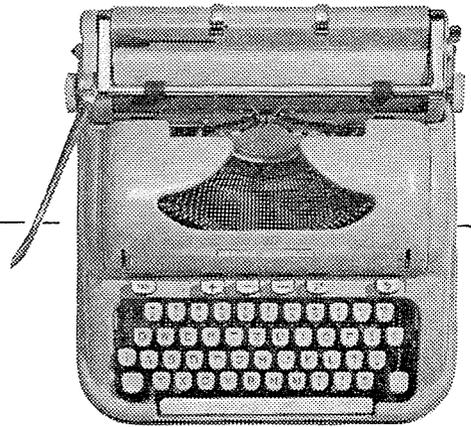


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## ADDRESSES OF CENTRAL COMMITTEES

- AFGHANISTAN — Afghan Red Crescent, *Kabul*.
- ALBANIA — Albanian Red Cross, 35, Rruga Barrikadavet, *Tirana*.
- ARGENTINE — Argentine Red Cross, Victoria 2068 (R.72), *Buenos Aires*.
- AUSTRALIA — Australian Red Cross, 122-128 Flinders Street, *Melbourne, C. 1*.
- AUSTRIA — Austrian Red Cross, 3, Gusshausstrasse, *Vienna IV*.
- BELGIUM — Belgian Red Cross, 98, Chaussée de Vleurgat, *Brussels*.
- BOLIVIA — Bolivian Red Cross, 135 Avenida Simon-Bolivar, 1515 (Casilla 741), *La Paz*.
- BRAZIL — Brazilian Red Cross, Praça da Cruz Vermelha 10-12, *Rio de Janeiro*.
- BULGARIA — Bulgarian Red Cross, 1, Boul. S.S. Biruzov, *Sofia*.
- BURMA — Burma Red Cross, 42, Strand Road, High Court Building, *Rangoon*.
- CAMBODIA — Cambodian Red Cross, 8 Phlaur Ang Nonn, P.O.B. 94, *Pnom-Penh*.
- CANADA — Canadian Red Cross, 95, Wellesley Street East, *Toronto 5*.
- CEYLON — Ceylon Red Cross, 106, Turret Road, *Colombo VII*.
- CHILE — Chilean Red Cross, Avenida Santa Maria 0150, *Santiago de Chile*.
- CHINA (People's Republic) — Red Cross Society of China, 22, Kanmein Hutung, *Peking, E*.
- COLOMBIA — Colombian Red Cross, Carrera 7a, 34-65 Apartado nacional 11-10, *Bogota*.
- COSTA RICA — Costa Rican Red Cross, Calle 5a Sur, Apartado 1025, *San José*.
- CUBA — Cuban Red Cross, Ignacio Agramonte 461, *Havana*.
- CZECHOSLOVAKIA — Czechoslovak Red Cross, Thunovska 18, *Prague III*.
- DENMARK — Danish Red Cross, Platanvej 22, *Copenhagen V*.
- DOMINICAN REPUBLIC — Dominican Red Cross, Calle Galvan 24, Apartado 1293, *Ciudad Trujillo*.
- ECUADOR — Ecuadorian Red Cross, Avenida Colombia y Elizalde 118, *Quito*.
- ETHIOPIA — Ethiopian Red Cross, *Addis Ababa*.
- FINLAND — Finnish Red Cross, Tehtaankatu 1 A, *Helsinki*.
- FRANCE — French Red Cross, 17, rue Quentin-Bauchart, *Paris (8<sup>e</sup>)*.
- GERMANY (Dem. Republic) — German Red Cross in the German Democratic Republic, Kaitzerstrasse 2, *Dresden*.
- GERMANY (Federal Republic) — German Red Cross in the Federal Republic of Germany, Friedrich-Ebert-Allee 71, *Bonn*.
- GHANA — Ghana Red Cross, *Accra*.
- GREAT BRITAIN — British Red Cross, 14 Grosvenor Crescent, *London, S.W.1*.
- GREECE — Greek Red Cross, rue Lycavitou 1, *Athens*.
- GUATEMALA — Guatemalan Red Cross, 4a Calle 11-42, Zona 1, *Guatemala*.
- HAITI — Haiti Red Cross, rue Férou, *Port-au-Prince*.
- HONDURAS — Honduran Red Cross, Calle Henry Dunant, *Tegucigalpa*.
- HUNGARY — Hungarian Red Cross, Arany Janos utca 31, *Budapest V*.
- ICELAND — Icelandic Red Cross, Thorvaldsensstraeti 6, *Reykjavik*.
- INDIA — Indian Red Cross, 1 Red Cross Road, *New Delhi 2*.
- INDONESIA — Indonesian Red Cross, Tanah Abang Barat 66, *Djakarta*.
- IRAN — Iranian Red Lion and Sun Society, Avenue Ark, *Teheran*.
- IRAQ — Iraqi Red Crescent, *Baghdad*.
- IRELAND — Irish Red Cross, 25 Westland Row, *Dublin*.
- ITALY — Italian Red Cross, 12, via Toscana, *Rome*.
- JAPAN — Japanese Red Cross, 5 Shiba Park, *Tokyo*.
- JORDAN — Jordan Red Crescent, *Amman*.
- KOREA (Democratic Republic) — Red Cross Society of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, *Pyongyang*.
- KOREA (Republic) — The Republic of Korea National Red Cross, Korean Red Cross Building 32-3 Ka Nam San-Dong, *Seoul*.
- LAOS — Laotian Red Cross, *Vientiane*.
- LEBANON — Lebanese Red Cross, rue Général Spears, *Beirut*.

## ADDRESSES OF CENTRAL COMMITTEES

- LIBERIA — Liberian National Red Cross, Camp Johnson Road, *Monrovia*.
- LIBYA — Libyan Red Crescent, Sharia Gasser Hamed, *Benghazi*.
- LIECHTENSTEIN — Liechtenstein Red Cross, *Vaduz*.
- LUXEMBURG — Luxemburg Red Cross, Parc de la Ville, *Luxemburg*.
- MEXICO — Mexican Red Cross, Sinaloa 20, 4<sup>o</sup> piso, *Mexico* 7, D.F.
- MONACO — Red Cross of Monaco, quai des Etats-Unis, *Monaco*.
- MONGOLIA — Red Cross Society of the Mongolian People's Republic, *Ulan-Bator*.
- MOROCCO — Moroccan Red Crescent, rue Calmette, *Rabat*.
- NETHERLANDS — Netherlands Red Cross, 27 Prinsessegracht, *The Hague*.
- NEW ZEALAND — New Zealand Red Cross, 61 Dixon Street, P.O.B. 6073, *Wellington C. 2*.
- NICARAGUA — Nicaraguan Red Cross, 12 Avenida Nordeste, 305, *Managua*, D.N.C.A.
- NIGERIA — The Nigerian Red Cross Society, 2, Makoko Road, P.O. Box 764, *Lagos*.
- NORWAY — Norwegian Red Cross, Parkveien 33b, *Oslo*.
- PAKISTAN — Pakistan Red Cross, Frere Street, *Karachi* 4.
- PANAMA — Panamanian Red Cross, *Panama*.
- PARAGUAY — Paraguayan Red Cross, calle André Barbero y Artigas, *Asunción*.
- PERU — Peruvian Red Cross, Tarapaca 881, *Lima*.
- PHILIPPINES — Philippines National Red Cross, 600 Isaac Peral Street, P.O.B. 280, *Manila*.
- POLAND — Polish Red Cross, Mokotowska 14, *Warsaw*.
- PORTUGAL — Portuguese Red Cross, General Secretariat, Jardim 9 de Abril, 1 a 5, *Lisbon*.
- RUMANIA — Rumanian Red Cross, Strada Biserica Amzei 29, C.P. 729, *Bucarest*.
- SALVADOR — Salvador Red Cross, 3a Avenida Norte y 3a Calle Poniente, 21, *San Salvador*.
- SAN MARINO — San Marino Red Cross, *San Marino*.
- SOUTH AFRICA (Republic) — South African Red Cross, 304, Barclay's Bank Building, 14 Hollard Street, P.O.B. 8726, *Johannesburg*.
- SPAIN — Spanish Red Cross, Eduardo Dato 16, *Madrid*, 10.
- SUDAN — Sudanese Red Crescent, *Khartum*.
- SWEDEN — Swedish Red Cross, Artillerigatan 6, *Stockholm* 14.
- SWITZERLAND — Swiss Red Cross, Taubenstrasse 8, *Berne*.
- THAILAND — Thai Red Cross Society, King Chulalongkorn Memorial Hospital, *Bangkok*.
- TOGO — Togolese Red Cross Society, Avenue des Alliés, P.O. Box 655, *Lome*.
- TUNISIA — Tunisian Red Crescent, 1, Avenue de Carthage, *Tunis*.
- TURKEY — Turkish Red Crescent, Yenisehir, *Ankara*.
- UNITED ARAB REPUBLIC — Red Crescent Society of the United Arab Republic, 34, rue Ramses, *Cairo*.
- URUGUAY — Uruguayan Red Cross, Avenida 8 de Octubre, 2990, *Montevideo*.
- U.S.A. — American Red Cross, National Headquarters, 17th and D Streets, N.W., *Washington* 6, D.C.
- U.S.S.R. — Alliance of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, Kouznetsky Most 18/7, *Moscow*.
- VENEZUELA — Venezuelan Red Cross, Avenida Andrés Bello No 4, *Caracas*.
- VIET NAM (Democratic Republic) — Red Cross of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, 68, rue Bà-Triez, *Hanoi*.
- VIET NAM (Republic) — Red Cross of the Republic of Viet Nam, 201, đường Hồng-Tháp-Tu, *Saigon*.
- YUGOSLAVIA — Yugoslav Red Cross, Simina ulica broj 19, *Belgrade*.