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INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

INFORMATION NOTE OF MARCH 12, 1952 CONCERNING THE CONFLICT IN KOREA

It will be remembered that at the end of January, Generals Kim Il Song and Peng Te Huaih replied to a message from the International Committee of the Red Cross by repeating a former proposal that joint Commissions should be set up to visit prisoner of war camps after an armistice had been signed. The Commissions would be composed of representatives of the North Korean Red Cross, the Chinese Red Cross and the International Committee.

The Committee felt that the proposal seemed to imply that it could be considered as the United Nations Red Cross. It has recently sent two further messages to the Commanders-in-Chief of the People's Army of Korea and the People's Army of Chinese Volunteers. The second message was sent on March 5, 1952, and referred to the various ways in which the Committee has tried to obtain the facilities necessary to enable it to protect war victims on both sides, in conformity with the spirit of the Geneva Conventions, and even independently of any armistice. Both messages pointed out that all international activities of the Red Cross depend on the consent and good-will of the competent authorities, but are carried out in full independence of such authorities and of every inter-governmental organization whatsoever. The Committee had accordingly to make it clear that it could take part in the work of the proposed joint Commissions only in so far as the National Red Cross Societies on both sides were represented on them, in which case the role of the Committee would be quite distinct from that of the National Societies on either side.

The messages also pointed out that the International Committee of the Red Cross in Geneva had already spent a good deal of money in sending out the Delegates who are at present at work in South Korea, where they are assisting more than 150,000 prisoners of war ; and also in building up, mostly from its own funds, relief supplies—particularly medical supplies—at present stored at Hong Kong. The Central Prisoners of War Agency in Geneva has likewise sent the North Korean authorities full information about the prisoners of war just mentioned. The Committee expressed the hope that its specially independent position should be recognized, and that there should be no further misunderstanding or confusion of the Committee with the United Nations Organization.

The United Nations representatives at the armistice talks proposed in turn that the work of assisting prisoners of war should be entrusted to teams of delegates from the National Red Cross Societies of the Parties in conflict. The Committee welcomes every initiative likely to improve conditions for prisoners of war. For its part, and in accordance with the traditional principles which govern its work, it is ready to take any steps which could help in co-ordinating the activities of these teams on either side ; it is a vital and fundamental duty, expressly entrusted to the ICRC under the Geneva Conventions, to facilitate in every way the provision of relief to prisoners of war.

INFORMATION NOTE OF MARCH 13, 1952

The President of the International Committee of the Red Cross, M. Paul Ruegger, sent the following message on March 12, 1952, to Mr. Dean Acheson, United States Secretary of State, General Kim Il Song, Prime Minister of the People's Republic of Korea, and General Peng Te Huaih, Commander-in-Chief of the Chinese Volunteers :

“ The public has been told through numerous news items in the Press of allegations that bacteriological weapons had recently been employed in Korea. The ICRC has received protests on the subject from the Red Cross Societies of Hungary, Poland, Roumania, and Bulgaria.

The Government of the United States, which denies these allegations so far as it is concerned, has also addressed itself to the ICRC, asking if the Committee would be prepared to have an inquiry made with the object of determining the real causes, the nature, and the extent of the epidemics which are stated to have occurred in North Korea. The United States Government proposes that such inquiry should be made on both sides of the fighting lines in Korea, and offers to give the representatives of the International Committee full access behind the United Nations lines to all possible sources of information having a relevance to the inquiry.

In conformity with the principles which govern its attitude in such cases and which were set out in its Circulars to Governments and National Red Cross Societies of September 1939 and November 1951, the Committee is today addressing the following communication to both Parties to the Korean conflict :

1. Subject to the agreement of both Parties, the International Committee of the Red Cross will set up a Commission which will be under its direction. The Commission will be composed of persons who will offer every guarantee of moral and scientific independence which could be offered by experts.

who have highest qualifications, especially in epidemiology. It will address itself to known specialists whom it will itself select in Switzerland ; it will also invite two or three scientific experts whom it shall ask the National Red Cross Societies of Asiatic countries not taking part in the conflict to propose.

2. The above-mentioned Commission must be assured of the co-operation of the authorities on both sides of the front, and of experts whom they will nominate.

The International Committee of the Red Cross requests both Parties to be good enough to let it have their replies at the earliest possible moment so that, as soon as their agreement is notified, it can take the emergency measures which will be called for. ”

PRINCIPAL ITEMS OF INTEREST

Greece. — During the month of February, 1,300 kilos of medical supplies, drugs, and surgical and medical instruments, worth more than 31,000 Swiss francs, were sent to the Athens Delegation. They will be made available to various categories of persons in need, especially those in camps and prisons.

Italy. — The Committee has sent the Italian Red Cross a consignment of drugs worth some 26,000 Swiss francs, to be used for tuberculous war victims. The gift is part of the general relief scheme which is aided by the ICRC and was mentioned here in November 1951. The Italian Red Cross will arrange the issue.

Yugoslavia. — The Committee has sent the Yugoslav Red Cross some 250 individual parcels of tonics and vitamin products for Germans detained in Yugoslavia. The consignment is worth about 3,500 Swiss francs.

War Invalids. — The War Invalid Section has sent the Polish Red Cross fifty Braille watches purchased from the funds of an Australian bequest mentioned in this column in November last.

Last of the Surplus Kit. — An important scheme begun by the Committee during the war has ended. Although nothing has been actively done about it during the last few years, it is worth drawing attention now to the scheme, which was operated through several National Red Cross Agencies, and in particular through the Bavarian Red Cross.

It became clear in 1944 that German and Italian prisoners of war in the United States would have great difficulty in taking all their property with them on repatriation. In agreement with the War Department, the Committee undertook to collect all excess property, and once hostilities had ended, to send it to Germany, Austria and Italy. There was all the more need for the scheme because the property in question had mostly been bought by the prisoners out of what they earned, and it would

very likely be in short supply in their own countries. In addition, most of the prisoners would not be repatriated directly but transferred temporarily to other Allied Powers. Forwarding arrangements were made, and applied also to prisoners interned in Canada. Some 180,000 parcels, weighing more than 2,000 tons, were sent to Geneva, and from there to Bremen.

The restoration of the property to its owners took a long time because the men concerned changed residence many times. The Austrian, Italian and Bavarian Red Cross—the latter receiving more than 150,000 of the parcels—undertook the very laborious work involved and now brought finally to an end. The Bavarian Red Cross, through the Press and Radio, has now announced a time-limit of three months for any claims of the former prisoners whom it has been impossible to reach up to now. The balance left is in any case extremely small, representing only 0.6 per cent of the property taken over by the Bavarian Red Cross.

*RECOGNITION
OF THE CEYLON RED CROSS SOCIETY*

Circular No. 397

Geneva, March 6, 1952.

To the Central Committees of the National Societies
of the Red Cross, Red Crescent, and Red Lion and Sun

Dear Sirs,

We have the honour to inform you of the official recognition by the International Committee of the Ceylon Red Cross Society.

This Society was founded on April 1, 1949, following the accession to independence of Ceylon the previous year; it replaces the Ceylon Branch of the British Red Cross which was established in 1936 and dissolved on March 31, 1939.

By letter of February 12, 1952, the President of the Executive Committee of the Ceylon Red Cross Society requested the recognition of the International Committee, and enclosed the Royal Decree of November 27, 1951, in connection with the Society, together with a copy of its Statutes.

These documents were examined jointly by the Committee and the Secretariat of the League of Red Cross Societies, and showed that the prescribed conditions for recognition of new National Societies by the International Committee were fully satisfied.

By virtue of the ratification deposited by the United Kingdom on June 23, 1931, Ceylon is party to the 1929 Geneva Convention; this is also confirmed in the Royal Decree on the subject of the Society.

Under the terms of the Decree and the Statutes of the Ceylon Red Cross, the essential duties of the Society are to assist the wounded and sick at all times, to improve health, to fight against disease and to mitigate suffering.

Their Majesties the King and Queen were Patrons of the Society at the time of the foundation ; the Governor-General of Ceylon is President. The Chairman of the Central Council is Mr. R. N. Bond, O.B.E., and Sir John Tarbat is Chairman of the Finance Commission. The headquarters of the Society are at Colombo.

The International Committee of the Red Cross is happy to welcome this new Society to membership of the International Red Cross and, by the present Circular, to accredit it to the other Societies. The International Committee recommends the Society to them, and offers to the Ceylon Red Cross its sincere good wishes for the future, and for the success of its work of charity.

Very truly yours,

FOR THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE
OF THE RED CROSS

Paul RUEGGER

President

CHRONICLE

SPREADING OF RED CROSS PRINCIPLES

The International Conferences of the Red Cross have dealt on several occasions with the question of making the Red Cross principles widely known, and it might be thought that nothing more remains to be said.

The Conferences of Paris (1867), Berlin (1869) and Geneva (1884) did not take up the matter; but the IVth Conference at Karlsruhe (1887) considered the following question:

What measures have been or should be taken by the Societies to spread the knowledge of the Geneva Convention in the army, in circles particularly concerned in its execution, and among the general public?

... the necessary steps shall be taken to inform the young of these ideas (amendment)

At Rome, in 1882, the Central Committee of the Austrian Red Cross asked the Conference to include an additional item on its agenda—namely:

How can young people in schools be made interested in the high mission of the Red Cross?

The report on this Conference in the *Bulletin international des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge*¹ reads:

Another group of items referred to the promotion of Red Cross work. Thus item No. IV asked how young people in schools could be made interested in the high mission of the Red Cross, and item No. XIV concerned measures to be taken to spread Red Cross ideas among all social classes.

On the first point, Dr. d'Arneth submitted a report full of interesting ideas, while Professor Martens, speaking on the second, emphasized the absolute necessity of utilizing all possible means to spread the ideas of the Red Cross among all classes of the population, in order

¹ Vol. 23-24, p. 159.

to increase the resources upon which the Red Cross would have to call in case of public disaster or international war.

The proposal of the Central Committee of the Austrian Red Cross was not adopted (meeting of April 26, 1892).

At St. Petersburg (1902), Resolution XI on the agenda of the VIIth Conference included the following passage :

... it is also desirable that such instruction should be given orally in the armies.

At the same time, the VIIth International Red Cross Conference reminds all Red Cross organizations of their moral obligation, undertaken at the Karlsruhe and Rome Conferences, to utilize all means at their disposal to achieve a wide and fertile propagation of the Red Cross idea, and of its importance in time of war and in time of peace, among all classes of the population.

The XVth International Red Cross Conference, held at Tokyo (1934), adopted the following text of Resolution XXV under the title " Education of the Public " :

The XVth International Red Cross Conference, recognizing the importance of the medical and social work accomplished by the Red Cross Societies, taking into consideration the fact that the nature and extent of these services are determined by national and local conditions, believes that the essential role of the Red Cross in this sphere should be to educate the public, to try out new methods, and to promote co-ordination of effort between the public services and private organizations, using for the purpose, to the largest extent possible, specially trained personnel.

In 1938, the XVIth Conference at London adopted Resolution XXVI under the title " The Red Cross and Education " :

The XVIth International Red Cross Conference, having taken cognizance of the report presented by the League of Red Cross Societies under the general title " The Red Cross Educational Programme ", considers that this report deals with an aspect of capital importance to the work of the Red Cross and notes with satisfaction that emphasis is laid therein both on the moral and the practical side of the educational function of the Red Cross.

Finally, the XVIIth Conference at Stockholm (1948) adopted Resolution LXV : " Teaching and Publicizing Red Cross Prin-

ciples amongst Adults", submitted under that title by the American Red Cross :

It is considered that an important contribution to the education of adults in Red Cross principles and practice can be made if Red Cross members, at all levels, are aware that the honour of the Red Cross is at all times in their keeping. If they, at all times, in their private as well as in their public Red Cross lives, conduct themselves as those who truly believe in the Red Cross way of life, it will have the effect of making the public understand the beneficent influence which the Red Cross can have as a factor in the raising of humanitarian standards, and, in our opinion, should act as an incentive to the public to become members of our Organization.

These resolutions, set down in their chronological order from 1867 to 1948, give the impression of a prelude to a vast spiritual movement, but have not been followed in fact by as widespread or systematic a development as might have been expected, and the problem of how best to spread the fundamental principles of the Red Cross among all classes of the population remains unsolved. It is of general interest and its solution could be of particular value in assisting in the formation of an ethical public opinion.

It is true that the last thirty years have seen the creation of an admirable youth organization on which great hopes are laid. We speak of the Junior Red Cross which imbues millions of children and adolescents with altruistic ideas. Before the 1914-18 War, Scouting also began. Although these movements were not founded as a result of resolutions of the International Conferences, the fundamental conception underlying them is very close to the humanism of the Red Cross. They have in common a certain mental climate and many spiritual links. Moreover, both had their origin in a war.

During the Boer War (1899-1900), Sir Robert Baden-Powell, besieged in Mafeking, was able to hold out against heavy odds thanks to the help given him by boys in the town. He was so struck by their keenness and intelligence that when he returned to England after the war he started the first troops of Boy Scouts in Liverpool. There are now Scouts in every country,

forming an international association or, more correctly, an international brotherhood.¹

During the First World War, which took an enormous toll of human life and left devastation and misery in its wake, children were enrolled in all the branches of the Canadian Red Cross to help prepare medical supplies and other articles necessary for the health and well-being of the soldiers. The idea spread, and in 1919, the American Red Cross organized children for the same purpose. Then the New South Wales Committee of the Australian Red Cross followed suit, forming the children into circles, while in Italy they were enrolled, for the same purpose, as auxiliary members of local Red Cross Branches.

When the War ended, the Canadian and American Red Cross felt that these children, mobilized to meet the exigencies of the moment, represented a force which could be utilized for other purposes. The movement had a definite educational value. Moreover, the children agreed to help in the recovery of Europe by doing what they could to improve conditions for those who had suffered from the War.²

Since then, this admirable movement, which gives an outlet to the enthusiasm of youth, to its keen desire to develop and construct, has been promoted by the League of Red Cross Societies.³ It has tried "to instil into children the Red Cross ideal of peace, to accustom them to take care of their health, to help them to understand the duties of human and civic solidarity, and to foster the ideal and encourage the practice of mutual aid between them and the youth of their own country and of all nations"⁴.

The Junior Red Cross Division set up by the League Secretariat serves as a link between the Junior Red Cross in the

¹ See *Revue internationale*, February 1920, p. 174: « *Le Scoutisme et son rôle social* » by M. Pierre Girard, Scoutmaster at Geneva.

² See *Revue internationale*, August 1922, p. 662, " *Développement du Mouvement de la Croix-Rouge de la Jeunesse* " by Howard H. Barton, head of the Junior Red Cross Division of the League of Red Cross Societies.

³ Founded on May 3, 1919.

⁴ See *Revue internationale*, March 1922: General Assembly of the League of Red Cross Societies, Resolutions XVIII and XIX.

different countries. It is a permanent organ of liaison, co-ordination and study and serves as an information centre ; its object is to promote the spirit of the movement and support the efforts of the Junior Sections of the National Societies, in this way associating them in a form of common action which helps to develop a spirit of international fellowship.

The activities of the movement, founded on the idea of service, are many and worthy. They widen the horizon of young people and stimulate personal effort.

Nevertheless, however important and well-intentioned this movement may be, it is not enough to ensure the systematic diffusion of the principles of the Red Cross and the propagation of the spirit which animates it, nor does it provide a final solution to the problem posed by the International Conferences.

The solution must be sought elsewhere, one field particularly worthy of attention being that of direct co-operation between the Red Cross and public education authorities.

School curriculums should include the history of the work of the Red Cross—a story which bears powerful witness and stimulates high endeavour—and detailed study of the principles which inspire it. For it has been said that only a knowledge of the past can reveal humanity to us in all its sorrows and labours, and teach us to love it nevertheless.

The value of this work and the humanity which inspires it are still too little known to the great majority of people, who seldom hear of the Red Cross except through Press communiqués or talks over the Radio.

There is, no doubt, in all countries, a social *élite*—a few cultured minds—which understands the importance of the Red Cross and its ideals and admires the disinterested spirit of its work. But what of the “general public” and the “man in the street”?

The ignorance of the “general public” in regard to the Red Cross is too great, and an effort must be made to diminish and if possible end it. Even the initiated have a limited idea

of what the Red Cross means : to them it stands for nurses, for generous aid to the victims of disasters, for welfare workers and first aid...

They may know that the Geneva Conventions exist, but are ignorant of the provisions contained in them. It is doubtful if they have any knowledge of what Red Cross and the Central Prisoner of War Agency did during the two world wars. They probably know little of the problem of refugees and displaced persons or of the fundamental spiritual idea of the Red Cross.

The "man in the street" knows as little; possibly even less. But, like members of the general public, he can grasp the idea of relief, of mutual help under a thousand different forms in the struggle for existence. He is thus capable of understanding the special work of the Red Cross which is one of the highest manifestations of the instinctive feeling of human fellowship.

But again like the general public, he has not enough imagination to understand the background of ideas underlying the impulse which leads him to perform an act of charity or solidarity towards the distressed.

In addition to the members of the "general public" and to the "man in the street", who possess some degree of education, there are the "human masses" who carry out their lowly and anonymous tasks under every latitude.

They are ignorant or ill-informed and as a rule show little curiosity about Red Cross, although there is a keen sense of solidarity amongst the humble. That sentiment is perhaps unconscious, but in case of misfortune, it bursts forth spontaneously, and although not always clearly apparent, it is there nevertheless.

These "human masses" are most often illiterate,¹ lead a simple life, and in certain regions have used the same unvarying farming and artisanal methods for several thousand years.

¹ Recently, at a press conference in New York, Mr. Torres Bodet, Director General of UNESCO, pointed out that more than half of the population of the globe could neither read nor write.

In other parts of the world, their life is hard ; they are drawn up into the enormous machine of modern industrialism and have great difficulty in bettering their lot. Although they may have heard of the Red Cross, they, too, remember only the significant material aspects of its work : the distribution of food to the hungry ; or the work of medical delegates of the International Committee of the Red Cross, who, on their health missions, have nursed women and children in mobile dispensaries, or endeavoured to instil elementary principles of hygiene into as many of them as possible.

Many, on the other hand, know nothing of the delegates of the International Committee, but see the effective work done by the health teams of their own national Red Cross.

On the whole, the “ masses ” are not inhumane. If the poverty in which they live were not so great, they, too, would be able to understand the humanitarian spirit of the Red Cross principles, since those principles spell “ pity for individual distress ”.

There lies the difficulty in disseminating the fundamental conception of the Red Cross amongst these “ human masses ” for, as has been said, “ when millions and millions of human beings in the East have nothing to eat, it would be a farce to speak of humanitarianism and of the development of the human ideal ; effective measures must be taken to wipe out ignorance, hunger and disease.”

With particular reference to the “ human masses ” in the Far East, the spreading of Red Cross principles is thus closely related to the work undertaken to overcome distress and illiteracy by the Specialized Agencies of the United Nations, such as WHO, UNESCO, and FAO.

The “ masses ” of the West as well as those outside the western orbit, and the “ general public ” in all countries, are ignorant of the fundamental concept underlying the Red Cross movement. That is an indisputable fact.

This concept which has quickened the minds of men towards the suffering, should not be solely a theme of meditation for

the better educated and the intellectuals, but should be widespread.

It was inspired by certain historical events, and contains a code of ethics which reaches a high level of humanism ; — a code which is essentially individualistic in its respect for the human person, but is also universal, because it envisages man as an entity, irrespective of any religious, social or racial principles.

The Red Cross is concerned with the relief of human suffering, and only passes judgment upon the physical facts which have caused it, when requested to do so ; it does not try to influence events, but by its spirit of charity, it can influence public opinion. The conception of the Red Cross thus represents a splendid doctrine of human liberty and of respect for the dignity of the human person.

That principle is one of those which are most universally applied, because it has an appeal which is essentially disinterested.

It is that objective of universality which inspires all the actions of the Red Cross in the field of law and ethics, and confers on its activities their unique character of peaceful collaboration.

Independently of everyday life and of time and space, the Red Cross preserves its creative, spiritual and material forces intact, thus enabling it to rally unanimous opinion around it.

If it were better known amongst all sections of the population, the fundamental conception of the Red Cross, which potentially covers its whole activity and gives it a higher meaning, might profoundly influence public thinking.

To that end, especially in this age of internationalism, when ideas clash, conflict and never meet, the Red Cross should not rest content with its traditional activities in the legal, medico-social and relief fields, but should disseminate the human spirit of its work more vigorously than it has done in the past.

Its aim should not be to create a beatific state of humanity, a " Utopia ", but to be a guide, example and precept, which would aid in the spiritual development, more especially of the

young generations, by the hidden power of its altruistic code. It would aim above all at counteracting the lifelessness of their charity by telling the story of its humanitarian work and by citing the series of irrefutable documents which reveal in condensed and summarized form a large part of human suffering.

The work of the Red Cross is surely in reality the story of charity.

To spread Red Cross principles, the "general public" and the "man in the street" should be educated by giving appropriate instruction at school to children and juveniles; and an endeavour should be made to educate the masses where, it can be guessed, there are great depths of distress, by radio (the most effective way of broadcasting ideas throughout the world), by films, by the voice of delegates of the Red Cross (who are excellent missionaries¹, and by pictures and books.

A history of the Red Cross should be written in the form of a popular novel, to bring its work to the knowledge of the world at large; the intentions of the author should be limited to producing a work which is easy to read without the slightest effort, and which, by stating facts and ideas, and the ideas which were the starting point of the facts, will arouse a feeling of emotion and exaltation in the mind of the reader. For no matter how splendid the work of the National Red Cross Societies in this field, it is inadequate to spread the message of the Red Cross movement and to make known the magnitude of its work.

Instruction in the principles of the Red Cross, which is of far-reaching pedagogical importance, might be given in schools to pupils between the ages of 15 and 20, at a time when they are most receptive to beauty, when memory is vivid, before they become conscious of the realities of the outside world, and before they enter into the world of adults, where the outlook is often depressing. The human element would thus be introduced into the curriculums of primary, secondary and vocational

¹ Study groups or seminars might very well be planned at the headquarters of the ICRC, to complete the training of future delegates by pedagogical and sociological studies which are indispensable for their work as missionaries.

training schools, by teaching the young the history of the humanitarian movement ; for the history of ideas will play a great part in their attitude towards life.

Pupils should be taught the principles which the Red Cross has been trying to promote since its earliest beginnings ; they should be imbued with a spirit of brotherhood ; it should be explained to them that although force has generally governed relationships between men, it has always led the world to disaster ; they should be reminded, without using high-sounding words, that there is a hidden need for solidarity in the lives of men, that each individual harbours an abiding urge to help others (although it may sometimes be frustrated and often inarticulate), a profound yearning towards charity which leads to self-sacrifice in action, and to action itself.

Schoolchildren should be taught to think of distress which is undeserved ; to develop self-sacrifice, in order to counteract their youthful exuberance which might take the line of least resistance ; one should abolish in their minds the idea of war, by pointing out the uselessness of the monstrous destruction which it is likely to cause ; one should instill in their minds a profound terror of bloodshed, whose very nature is madness ; repeat to them constantly that all wars are civil wars, as Fénelon wrote at the time of the Battle of Malplaquet, where, it is said, " the starving slaughtered each other ", remind them of Hiroshima and Nagasaki ; speak to them of a policy of culture where the liberty and dignity of man would be safeguarded. That would form a " whole " which would arm the child spiritually and fashion within his mind ideas which would grow.

In short, the human message of the Red Cross should be adapted to their mobile and anxious minds ; it should enable them to learn the principle of universality, and should banish from their thought the law of superior numbers which is already predominant in too many fields.

For it cannot be too strongly emphasized that human communities are not governed merely by the laws of the greater number and of techniques, but largely by humanism, the true worth of which can never be stressed sufficiently.

And here also it would be the indispensable complement,

of far-reaching pedagogical value, to the positive side of the "youth factor". For it is always a difficult task to rouse young people of school-age from their egocentrism and materialism, teach them an ideal and guide their intellects and thought.

An effort should be made to overcome their indifference and teach them to understand the breadth of the profoundly human and disinterested conception of the Red Cross, before contact with the outer world has hardened them and they are influenced by the changeable impressions of the masses.

The writer believes that humanism, as a means of education, will attain its full value only when Red Cross principles, which are of unfailing interest, are taught in addition to traditional subjects, such as literature and science.

The teaching of Red Cross thought and action in State schools throughout the world, might, moreover, have far-reaching international repercussions, since it would fire the young with an ideal of peaceful living and humanity which should not be content to remain dormant, but should be translated into action.

To introduce "humanity" into school curriculums, to give life a certain poetical quality in the eyes of children and young people by making them study a subject of great spiritual value, directed towards the understanding of mankind, and towards improved daily relations between men—that would be the Red Cross answer to the burning problem of the maintenance of peace—peace among men, if not peace among States, the latter being above all a political edifice, a vast problem pertaining to the realm of interest, rather than to that of charity.

In an age when ideologies sacrifice and challenge human values, such instruction, which could dwell constantly on the supremacy of moral values and the danger of solutions obtained by force, would, by its aim and inspiration, become an important part of the Red Cross peace programme.

It would translate into practice the doctrine of peace which the Red Cross is endeavouring to spread by a campaign on a more intellectual level—one which might appear to be intended

solely for the better educated, and to be beyond the reach of the majority and of the masses, although it is true that in many countries the latter are receptive to the influence of the written and spoken word.

There is, however, no reason to suppose that by unflagging and long-term efforts on the part of the National Red Cross Societies and Governments, peace among men should not one day be identified with peace among States. That peace is the ardent desire of the Red Cross and of human communities, and without doubt corresponds to the general desire of the world today.

Attractive by its simplicity, the above conception of the teaching of Red Cross principles may seem to be over-optimistic. That argument may be put forward by its opponents. But to the sceptical who may think this "school campaign" of the Red Cross in favour of peace to be premature or even impossible, we can only repeat the words of Edouard Herriot in a message on the occasion of the third anniversary of the Declaration of Human Rights: "No ideal is more than a seed; but without seed, there can be no harvest."

Restricted to essentials, the programme of instruction in Red Cross principles might cover the following ground:

I. *Introduction*

General remarks on the development of humanitarian law; (Those remarks might reconstitute chronologically the periods and gradual evolution of humanitarian ideas).

II. *The Red Cross Movement*

The forerunners. Solferino; Henry Dunant and the "Chiesa Maggiore"; "A Souvenir of Solferino". The International Conference of 1863. Foundation of the International Committee of the Red Cross. The Diplomatic Conference of 1864. The Geneva Convention of 1864; its principles. The International

Committee of the Red Cross ; its legal activities ; its humanitarian work in peace and in war ; relief work of the ICRC. Revisions of the Convention of 1864 ; the Geneva Conventions of August 12, 1949. Delegates of the ICRC. The National Red Cross Societies ; their work ; their national and international activities. The League of Red Cross Societies. The International Red Cross Conferences. The Junior Red Cross. The Red Cross and Peace, etc.

III. *Help for the Suffering*

The First Convention (Convention for the Amelioration of the Condition of the Wounded and Sick in Armed Forces in the Field ; comments. The Second Convention (Wounded, Sick and Shipwrecked Members of Armed Forces at Sea) ; comments ; etc. Medical missions of the ICRC. National Societies.

IV. *Respect of the Human Person*

The Third Convention (Convention relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War) ; comments. The Fourth Convention (Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War) ; comment. Human Rights. The Rights of Children. Respect of the Human person in India ; Islam ; the Far East ; Native Africa ; etc. The abolition of slavery.

V. *Self-abnegation*

Mutual aid and fellowship. The great moral figures of humanity.

VI. *Collective relief*

The relief work of the ICRC ; of the League ; of National Red Cross Societies. International Organizations : WHO, FAO, UNESCO, etc.

Endless discussion could take place on the above programme, the items of which are in no way subjects for sermons or exhortation. But there can be no doubt as to the utility of such instruction.

In an age when opinions are so sharply divided, it is important to re-establish in the minds of school children the principle of respect of the human person ; to return altruism to its proper level—a high one ; to awaken children's minds to the signification of Red Cross work which is both universal in scope and decisive in its consequences, before opening wide to them the gates of learning.

All this cannot be the work of a day, and can doubtless be accomplished only after trial and error, progress and setbacks.

* * *

Let us recapitulate the essential points in our plan.

This article has endeavoured to show that the problem of spreading the principles of the Red Cross, which was the subject of a number of resolutions at International Red Cross Conferences, has not yet reached an over-all solution, and that today it is still, even more than in the past, a subject which demands immediate study.

It would therefore seem appropriate, with the support of the Governments—so that they can take the necessary legal and administrative measures—to introduce a course of “ humanitarian history ” into the curriculum of primary, secondary and vocational training schools. An elementary course in the new subject should be given in the senior classes of primary and vocational training schools, and a full course in the first two classes of secondary schools. The instruction given should be adapted to the intellectual standard of the pupils and should follow the programme which has been sketched out above. The deep theme underlying the basic idea of the Red Cross should not be made too abstract, but vivid by including examples from real life.

As a preliminary step, regional centres should be set up to train the schoolmasters and teachers responsible for giving instruction in this special subject ; unless, of course, it is proposed to open university courses for the purpose, for those training to be teachers.¹

¹ The ICRC has sent the text of the Geneva Conventions of 1949 to the Law Schools of all the Universities in the world, with a recommendation that the subject be included in university courses.

International seminars, in or outside of universities, could also be planned to enable young schoolmasters of varying cultural backgrounds to express their opinions, pool their teaching experience, exchange views, and establish more personal contacts, constantly bearing in mind that it is for them to translate into action the principle of international solidarity.

Schoolmasters and teachers, imbued with the faith they preached, would avoid making this subject appear to be something which had to be studied, and would try to make it attractive by lending a radiant quality to the positive elements it contains, remembering above all that "teaching is not a matter of instilling dry, lifeless ideas into the mind, but of sowing the seed in such a way that it will bear a harvest which will, in its turn, sow seed in other minds". They would leave their young pupils with a lasting impression of the benefits of humanitarian law, and would raise the human being to its proper level in their minds, before the memories of childhood had become dulled, and their pupils became gregarious, impatient to lose themselves in the crowd.

By thus introducing the instruction of humanitarian history into school syllabuses, a common culture, truly international, generous and disinterested, would be fashioned. It would demonstrate to the majority, and even to the "masses", how the spirit of all the nations can be harnessed to a great idea. No effort should be spared to impart this ideal of life. It would then be for the Governments to create and develop the teaching of the subject, which by its very purpose finds justification and significance.

Let us hope that despite the difficult period through which the world is passing, the plan may be implemented and that the young who follow these courses may realize that the Red Cross movement is a welcome stage on the path of international concord, which will spare mankind bloodshed, and avert the moral downfall of nations harassed by the dread of war.

Louis Demolis.