



SUPPLEMENT

VOL. IV

REVUE INTERNATIONALE
DE LA CROIX-ROUGE

ET

BULLETIN INTERNATIONAL
DES SOCIÉTÉS
DE LA CROIX-ROUGE

SUPPLEMENT

Vol. IV, 1951

GENÈVE

1951

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November, 1951

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INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

PRINCIPAL ITEMS OF INTEREST

Preparations for the XVIIIth International Conference of the Red Cross. — The Secretary-General has visited Toronto to discuss with the Canadian Red Cross the organization of the XVIIIth International Conference, which is to be held there in July/August, 1952.

The discussions lasted three days. The Chairman of the National Executive Committee, the National Commissioner, and his staff decided on the steps considered necessary.

Greece. — Between September 15 and October 10, visits were paid by the Athens Delegation to the prisons of Gythion and Kyparissia, the camp for political exiles at Aghios Efstratios and the camp for exiled women at Trikkeri (Volos).

Greek Children. — On October 15, the ICRC and the League of Red Cross Societies sent to the Secretary-General for the VIth General Assembly of the United Nations, their third report on the repatriation of Greek children.

On October 29, 96 children repatriated from Jugoslavia arrived at Salonika. Members of the Yugoslav Red Cross escorted the party. A few days later, they were handed over to their parents in the presence of the Delegate from the ICRC and the League, and of representatives of the Greek Red Cross.

Regrouping of Families. — During the summer, the Czechoslovak Red Cross asked the ICRC to help in arranging the transfer to their own country of a number of Czechoslovak children residing in Jugoslavia. Three of them are already back with their families, after a short stay in Switzerland, where they were welcomed and housed by the Swiss Red Cross.

Korea. — The ICRC had forms prepared in Korean for the despatch and receipt of news about civilian and military persons in Korea. At the beginning of October a number of these forms were sent to Mr. Li-Don-En, Chairman of the Korean Red Cross, at Pyongyang, asking that they be completed and returned to Geneva.

The Central Prisoner of War Agency was officially notified during September and October of the names of 4,886 North Korean military personnel and of 7,837 Chinese volunteers taken prisoner by United Nations forces, and of 1,003 military personnel who died.

As previously, this information was transmitted to the home Powers through the North Korean Embassy in Moscow, together with 9 folders containing letters, 9 express-messages and 41 requests for enquiries. Duplicates were sent to the Chinese Red Cross.

. During the same period, the Central Agency received from Hong Kong and transmitted certain details—picked up from the Chinese radio or found in the Chinese papers—about twenty-four prisoners who had served in the United Nations forces. Some 1,975 items have been obtained in this way from unofficial and unchecked sources and retransmitted with all reserve by the Central Agency.

The ICRC is continuing its efforts to find some channel for gifts which various agencies and private individuals are requesting it to send to war victims in North Korea.

The review "Zdrowie" reported that a collection in aid of the Korean civilian population had been organized by the Polish Red Cross; the Bulgarian Red Cross Review also mentions gifts it had collected and sent to Korea. The ICRC wrote to these Societies, on October 5 and 19 respectively, asking if they would be willing to forward to the Korean Red Cross in Pyongyang the gifts people wished to entrust to the Committee.

Vietnam. — For the second time, the Delegate, M. Paul Kuhne, has met three representatives of the Red Cross of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam. The second meeting took

place at Hung Hoa on October 15, in the same place as the first in July. The representatives accepted 800 messages and letters for retransmission, and 109 requests for enquiries.

As M. Kuhne had to give up his work temporarily for health reasons, the Committee has appointed M. J. de Reynier, former Delegate in South Korea, as head of the Delegation in Indo-China. M. de Reynier left Geneva on November 7.

War Invalids. — The War Invalid Section continued its work of collective relief during October, and examined 66 individual cases. A British film entitled "Return to Action", dealing with the re-education of the disabled was acquired.

An interesting report from Tokyo tells of various activities made possible by a gift from the ICRC: relief supplies to war invalids, treatment of several war-blinded ex-servicemen, and so on.

Questionnaire on Nursing Services. — A questionnaire has been sent to National Red Cross Societies and military Medical Services on the duties and status in wartime of nurses, medical orderlies, assistant nurses, and VADs. The enquiry deals in particular with recruitment, standards of training, and status (ranks and corresponding duties, hours of service, leave, the wearing of uniform, pay and insurance, accommodation and subsistence, etc.).

The material thus collected will enable the Committee to give authoritative replies to the frequent requests for information received from national organizations. It might also usefully contribute towards achieving certain standards and improving the material and moral conditions of nursing personnel.

The Ministries of Defence, War or Foreign Affairs in various countries, the national Nursing Associations, and several international organizations will receive copies of the questionnaire.

*EXCHANGE OF CORRESPONDENCE
BETWEEN THE CHINESE RED CROSS
AND THE I.C.R.C.*

We reproduce below in full, correspondence recently exchanged between the Chinese Red Cross and the International Committee of the Red Cross :

NATIONAL RED CROSS SOCIETY
OF CHINA
22 Kanmein Hutung Peking, China

*Translation*¹

July 11, 1951.

Mr. Paul RUEGGER

President
International Committee of the Red Cross

Geneva
Switzerland

Dear Sir :

Under the instructions from Mme Li-Teh-chuan, President of the Red Cross Society of China, I have the honour to present you the following statement concerning the request of the International Committee of the Red Cross to have the Red Cross Society of China act on behalf of the International Committee in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

The Red Cross Society of China has never accepted such a request to work in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on behalf of the International Committee of the Red Cross. The Red Cross Society of China has repeatedly pointed out

¹ This translation was received from the Chinese Red Cross at the same time as the original letter in Chinese.

that if the International Committee of the Red Cross itself wishes to carry out its work in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, it should make direct contact with the competent authorities of that country. Before the International Committee of the Red Cross obtains the consent of the competent authorities of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the Red Cross Society of China is not in a position to consider any action relating to the work proposed by the International Committee.

The Red Cross Society of China, therefore, considers that the following two statements do not correspond with the fact and may easily lead to misapprehension of the parties concerned :

(1) The cable sent by the President of the International Committee of the Red Cross on May 29, 1951, to the Minister of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, and a copy of which was transmitted to Mme Li Teh-Chuan, President of the Red Cross Society of China, stated :

“ DURING MY RECENT MISSION PEKING I REQUESTED CHINESE REDCROSS ACT ON BEHALF INTERNATIONAL RED-CROSS COMMITTEE IN KOREAN PEOPLES DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC WHERE CIRCUMSTANCES PERMIT AND UNTIL COMMITTEE IS ITSELF ENABLED BY YOUR GOVERNMENT TO CARRY OUT ITS TRADITIONAL ACTIVITIES IN YOUR COUNTRY STOP CHINESE RED CROSS INFORMED ME IT DESIRES INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE TO ACCOMPLISH ITSELF SOONEST POSSIBLE ITS CUSTOMARY TASKS AND ACTIVITIES BUT IS NEVERTHELESS PREPARED ACCEDE MY REQUEST ON RECEIVING YOUR GOVERNMENTS APPROBATION STOP.”

(2) In a statement delivered by the President of the International Committee of the Red Cross at a Geneva Press Conference on April 9, 1951, and published in both the *Revue Internationale de la Croix-Rouge et Bulletin International des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge*, No. 388 and its Supplement, Vol. IV, No. 4, he mentioned : “ WE HAVE BEEN OFFICIALLY INFORMED THAT THE CHINESE RED CROSS SOCIETY WISHES OUR COMMITTEE TO EXERCISE, AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, ITS TRADITIONAL DUTIES. IT IS ONLY IN THE

MEANTIME, AND AT OUR EXPLICIT REQUEST, THAT THE CHINESE IS WILLING TO ACT FOR US..."

The Red Cross Society of China hereby requests this letter be published in full in the Revue Internationale de la Croix-Rouge et Bulletin International des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge as correction for the above mentioned statements.

Your sincerely,

Lin SHIH-HSIAO
Assistant Secretary General
of the Red Cross Society
of China

RADIOGRAMME

sg 145 peking 69 27/X 2228 rs =

Reçu : 21/X-51 VIA RADIOSUISSE
de : shai pax

It = intercroixrouge

Genève

president ruegger your letter dated july 27 was not received until october 23 stp regarding the question of icrc carrying on work in korea cma we have always held that your committee should directly consult with the authorities concerned of the democratic peoples republic of korea stp please kindly publish this cable together with the letter of our society of july thirteenth finis litechuan president chincross +

Her Excellency

Madame Li TEH-CHUAN

Minister of Public Health and
President of the Chinese Red Cross

22 Kanmein Hutung
Peking

Geneva, July 27, 1951.

Madam,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of the letter of your Red Cross Society, signed by Mr. Lin Shih-hsiao, Assistant Secretary General, and relating to the endeavours of the International Committee of the Red Cross in behalf of the victims of warfare in Korea. We have noted the contents of your letter with regret, above all in view of the continued absence of any positive reply on behalf of the North Korean Authorities to our numerous appeals and approaches, the only object of which was, and is, to be enabled to carry out our traditional activities under the Geneva Conventions, activities the recognition of which—in particular as far as the Prisoners of War Convention is concerned—were implied in the telegram sent on July 13, 1950, by the Foreign Minister of the People's Democratic Republic of Korea to the Secretary General of the United Nations.

We also deeply regret your statement that the Chinese Red Cross feels unable, in the absence of any agreement between ourselves and North Korea, to act with and for us in discharging the aforesaid international activities for the protection of war victims, as set out in the various letters and memoranda handed to the Chinese Red Cross during my stay in Peking in March, 1951. Although I readily recognise that we have received no written reply to our requests in this connection, I was, at the time, happy to see affirmed, on March 21, by the Chinese Red Cross, that your Society would wish to see us at work in North Korea and would do its best to this effect. We also understood that, pending the possibility for us to carry out all our traditional activities, that the Chinese Red Cross would

respond favourably to our endeavours, particularly as regards relief. In this expectation—as we recalled again in Geneva last May, when we had the opportunity of seeing your Excellency here—we left in HongKong an important stock of medicaments intended for war victims in North Korea (sick and wounded of the forces, prisoners of war and civilians) which had been flown there from Geneva.

In taking note of your statement of July 17, I cannot therefore refrain from expressing our great disappointment. Nevertheless the International Committee still hopes and expects that, in accordance with the Geneva Conventions, ways and means will at last be found, even though only after more than a year of warfare, to convey the required assistance provided for under the Geneva Conventions, to the victims of hostilities in North Korea, among whom there are also wounded Chinese Volunteers.

According to your wish your statement will be published, together with my reply, in the “*Revue internationale de la Croix-Rouge*”, as soon as you have confirmed your agreement to this procedure.

I take this opportunity of informing you furthermore that the International Committee feels the time has come to publish shortly a volume containing a full record of the steps taken, and the cables and memoranda sent to the belligerent Powers engaged in the Korean conflict.

Please accept, Excellency, the expression
of my highest consideration.

Paul RUEGGER.

JEAN G. LOSSIER,

Member of the ICRC Secretariat.

THE RED CROSS AND PEACE (III)

RESPONSIBILITIES

We have seen that the Red Cross, in the course of its history, has become ever more strongly conscious of the fact that it is working for peace ; we can therefore deduce that its guiding principles are those which tend to bring men closer together and create a spirit of peace ¹.

In what is at present being done to banish the threat of war, the importance of the Red Cross ² and of organizations working under its emblem in promoting a more tolerant civilization became quite evident. This was particularly so in regard to the value and effectiveness of its influence in favour of a better understanding between peoples, and in education, at all stages.

It is because their contribution may be so considerable that it is now necessary to examine various aspects and inherent difficulties, and the responsibilities which devolve as a consequence on the leaders and members of humanitarian organizations.

If there is to be general agreement as to the part the Red Cross can play in the work for peace, certain points must first be made quite clear.

The Red Cross, while acting in the immediate present, in response to incessant calls, is not thereby obliged to disregard the future. On the contrary ; it can not adopt a fatalistic attitude and accept the fallacious argument that, war being

¹ See *Supplements*: February and August, 1951.

² And, of course, those of the Red Crescent and the Red Lion and Sun.

inseparable from human nature, it would be useless for organizations whose essential duty is to deal with crying immediate needs, to attempt to prevent it. The Red Cross looks constantly to the future; in the man it helps spontaneously because he is suffering and alone, it divines the man he will be tomorrow when, with confidence restored, he again becomes a creative factor in the world—a world where charity will have reaped its harvest and opened up fair new prospects.

Should it, because of its very special constitution—making it an autonomous entity and a federation at the same time—maintain, as some advocate, a cautious attitude to everything which lies outside its traditional mission? Should it refuse to accept work for peace as a duty—one, moreover, which will henceforth assume vast importance?

The Resolutions of the International Red Cross Conferences appear certainly to point a direction. These Conferences, bringing together Delegates of the National Societies, the Committee and the League, and representatives of Governments signatory to the Conventions—practically all countries of the world—are both the reflection of and the controlling factor in the movement. As well as laying down policy, the decisions taken form a sort of internal law, existing side by side with the official international codes and operative as between the members of the Red Cross.

As the National Societies have recognized in their Statutes that they are members of the community of the International Red Cross, their own future conduct is thus defined, but the International Red Cross, naturally, could not force one attitude rather than another on the national elements which compose it. Its policy in regard to peace has, however, been clearly and positively defined, and is founded above all on the idea of human fellowship. As Dunant instinctively went beyond national barriers, the Red Cross goes beyond national opinions and divisions to affirm the human responsibility in face of the grave dangers which now threaten.

It would be foolish to deny that divergences exist, and dangerous to try suppress them. What is important is the common ground, and the practical work of the Red Cross allows

even existing differences to yield profit. This is the vital Red Cross contribution to peace; unlike other international work, it is not founded on an ephemeral convergence of views.

* * *

The complexity of the problem demands that we examine the various parts of which the Red Cross is made up, in order to find whether or not they are likely to be helpful in the movement for peace.

International presupposes *national*. The Red Cross is composed of National Societies and must consequently recognize that national differences are real. But its object is to transcend this reality. Relying on organizations which often, because of their work, are closely allied with the State, it must, as an international body, stand for something which goes beyond individual States and, in the name of a moral internationalism, refuse the fragmentation of which States themselves are the manifestation.

Many misunderstandings have their origin in this ambiguous situation. The Red Cross can regard peace only from the international standpoint, and its very structure prevents it from having any part—other than in questions of relief—in quarrels between States. International, for the Red Cross, accordingly signifies the desire to find points of contact on which community can be based. It was in this sense that the five Swiss citizens took the word in naming the Relief Committee for the military wounded which they had founded—the Committee which was to give the word *international* a moral value that attains full significance in moments of danger, whether on the battlefield or when, like today, peace is gravely threatened.

There is no doubt that if the Red Cross is obliged, in order to fulfil its mission, to preserve a true neutrality, this idea of neutrality (which, it need hardly be repeated, is never the same as indifference) should be re-examined and defined, in order to bring out more clearly the meaning it is acquiring in the vicissitudes of the times, now that human beings everywhere

are being drawn to an increasing extent into the affairs of the world around them. The organization of peace raises urgent problems, of the importance of which the Red Cross is well aware. Nevertheless, in the name of the universality on which it is founded, it continues to proclaim the principle which, for it, takes precedence over all others: in the face of suffering and ruin, distinctions disappear.

It works for the good of humanity. But it could have quite the contrary effect if, intending to act for superior interests and mobilising for the purpose the good will of many, it should, without even realizing what it was doing, serve partial or limited interests. This is an obvious danger; it is accordingly clear why the International Red Cross should intervene only if the moral principles which inspire it are at issue. The National Societies also must be careful to avoid taking sides in purely national affairs so that they can devote themselves, when necessary, to their proper objects.

Pushed to extremes, nationalisms give rise to discrimination and division. But the National Societies depend socially and morally to some extent on the environment and on the peoples from which they emanate. They must face facts and not ignore national currents. Consequently, the sharper divisions become, the more difficult becomes their task. And yet the very justification of their existence would disappear if they were ever to forget our common humanity and the fact that suffering makes no distinction of persons.

Even more, in regard to peace, must they resist being swept along with the crowd, resist the growing tendency to regard war as inevitable. In the ideal of the Red Cross there is a whole-hearted acceptance of man's responsibilities, wherever they may lie. There will be peace to the extent that men prove themselves as ardent in its pursuit as in their desire for it. Peace is a fact of history and history is what men are ceaselessly creating and modifying.

The Red Cross cannot regard war as a means of settling international conflicts, although ready at all times to bind up the wounds war leaves. It is thus above all in peace that it has its justification and can give full significance to its work.

Only in peacetime is there a hope of finding in human relations the increasing tolerance which war necessarily banishes.

* * *

There can be no frontiers where humanitarian work is concerned. The Red Cross must remain universal. The humanity which governs its actions is universal and is present in the heart of all men, even if but faint or even, for the moment, indiscernable. None, feeling isolated, should have the temptation to break with the human community symbolized by the universality of the Red Cross.

Even in peacetime, a break inside the work would have incalculable consequences. Belief in the oneness of humanity, which calls for Red Cross intervention and gives point to it, could scarcely remain intact in individuals who had seen a final rupture in the human community. What a degradation and cause of discouragement to men of good will would such a break represent!

All the more reason is there for fearing such break in wartime, when the Red Cross, universal and impartial, offers a sole refuge. It then acts in the name of positive law, but at the same time appears as the guardian of an international law which is founded in the nature of man. This mission may call for restraint to a degree which can be profoundly trying. To be allowed help, it must keep its opinions to itself. To respond to the appeal of those who have been stricken, it must contain its desire to protest. Only by such restraint can it, in all circumstances, translate into practice the ideal of human fellowship.

Even in this limited sphere, there are many disappointments. In the last analysis it is not the National Society which decides whether or not an intervention is possible in its territory; it is the Government which must first be convinced that there are moral, supra-national principles in question, in the light of which the course it had in mind may be modified. The approach must be made not to men, but to administrative

machines whose reactions may now be human, now inhuman, spontaneous generosity alternating with national hatreds.

The Red Cross furthermore intervenes to unite, not to separate. Its object is not to divide but to render humanity more conscious of its unity. It does not presume to judge either institutions or the men with whose lives they are bound up.

The defence of humanitarian principles may be considered the essential mission of the Red Cross. They must be kept alive and be applicable through all the political and social fluctuations of States. Such changes it can regard with indifference so long as the States, by agreeing to meet under its auspices, show themselves to be active participants in the international community of the Red Cross. It is thus that the Red Cross has remained universal in a world divided as ours is and, as we have seen, this universality is one of the conditions of its existence.

It works for peace. But with difficulty, because it has only one weapon : the humanity which each possesses—a fragile support, in periods of tension especially—to which it appeals as the supreme resource to which mankind can turn, hoping to prevent the greatest disasters. The will to survive, in spite of political and social changes, has characterised Red Cross history. Through all the shifting social and political structures in the changing stream of time which alters the form of nations, certain principles abide—the attributes of a civilization which has slowly been built up in the course of thousands of years.

For the Red Cross, each State, in signing the four Geneva Conventions, has undertaken to respect this common heritage. The ratification of humanitarian conventions, needless to say, binds the State not only in time of war but also, morally, in time of peace. Having striven to uphold certain moral values in the abnormal conditions of war—when there is the constant urge of opportunist and strategic considerations to flout and violate them—why should it not respect them in the days of peace which are favourable to the establishment of normal relations ?

In entering the community of the Red Cross, each National Society undertakes to defend in its own country the imperative

principles of preserving human dignity and helping those in need. They have a duty consequently to make the national authorities aware of these responsibilities. The Societies do not pass judgment on any particular action of a State ; they have no right to do so. They merely ask to be allowed, in all circumstances, to go to the help of the victims.

It is because they feel that they share the common destiny of all that members of the Red Cross are able to find, regardless of all differences, a common aspiration—the will to be and remain human. If men ever ceased to have that feeling of underlying fellowship, if they no longer perceived what binds them together regardless of nationality, doctrine, race or religion, mankind would lose one of its noblest features—and there could be no true peace.

* * *

He who works in the Red Cross and wishes to fulfil the moral engagement he has contracted, knows the difficulty of being always what he must always try to be, and constantly keeps his reactions under control. He knows how difficult it is to rise superior to his prejudices, the opinions current in his own circle—which will naturally leave their traces—and his personal preferences, in order to arrive at a more just and equitable appreciation of persons and things.

Aware of these difficulties and conscious of his own weakness, he knows how much is required of him and with what humility he must face the responsibility of defending humanitarian ideals in his daily labour. This humility in the individual member informs the whole movement, which at certain decisive moments, can make its voice heard ; as, for example, when the International Committee put forcibly before Governments the dangers to us all of new weapons ; as also when, during the War, it addressed an appeal to the belligerents and defended the principle of International Law which forbids the bombardment of other than military objects. However solemn such utterances may have been, they were, nevertheless, but warnings, not expressions of judgment.

But if the Red Cross cannot disregard the existing situation, it is not in any way bound to follow historical movements. In the introduction to its Report for the period of the first World War, the Committee, speaking of its complete liberty of action, stated: " True to its duty, it is the defender of charity and justice. These two principles, without which humanity is unworthy of the name, the Committee not only proclaims but preserves against all attack. Keeping distinct from national animosities, it must seek to embody the conscience of all men." Humanity may be approaching a decisive crisis. The responsibility of Red Cross members, whether those in charge or the rank and file is accordingly extended, even though few of them may have realised this fact. They must be always ready to attend to the suffering.

They desire peace because peace alone justifies the faith in man and his destiny which makes them act. Inside the movement, they know that to act means to work with greater earnestness for the benefit of others, and, by such action, to promote the spirit of fellowship and trust without which nothing great can ever be achieved¹.

They can unceasingly affirm their determination to secure peace in these times by helping the Red Cross in its activities, by making it better and more widely known, more universal—by having both States and citizens admit its right to intervene and be present. Every repulse to the Red Cross, every refusal to allow it act should be considered by them as an offence to humanity, and lead them to affirm their conviction with greater obstinacy. Every setback to the Red Cross is an added danger to peace, since it means that the feeling of humanity is deserting men's hearts—the feeling on which the consolidation of lasting peace depends.

The effects of our actions continue through time and space; they invite a response, and thus, little by little, in assisting our neighbour who suffers, we are helping to create around us an atmosphere favourable to mutual aid. Peace increases

¹ In connection with the personal engagement which the Red Cross ideal presupposes, see our *Fellowship: The Moral Significance of the Red Cross*. Geneva, 1948.

the chances of success ; war does not destroy the usefulness—the relief work done in wartime makes that clear—but reduces the scope, and diminishes the future possibilities.

* * *

There is often a tendency to see in the Red Cross only its medico-social work, which greatly extends in wartime. This work is vitally important. But if it was sufficient in itself, why should the Red Cross have chosen peace as one of the supreme objectives? It might have been content merely to care for the wounded, but it was carried always further. Its members, when they came to ask the profounder reasons for what they did, had necessarily to think on the question of peace and war. Their service is essentially one from man to man : care for the distress of another—because of the reflection in him of the humanity which is in all of us—impels us to act and consequently draws us towards each other. It is this which justifies sacrifice for our neighbour's benefit, and brings about the wider union which surpasses our private circle of family and friends.

With such an ideal before him, how can the Red Cross worker fail to suffer most keenly from the divisions which rend mankind? How can he fail to desire most ardently that the atmosphere of friendship which he has built up around him should be spread in increasing measure? Each may thus become an enthusiastic worker for peace...

The members of the Red Cross are engaged in a fight which is a constant demonstration of the fact that men, in helping each other, respect each other as individuals. The day its supporters throughout the world give proof that they are all, everywhere and at all times, profoundly conscious of the fact, it can be said with certainty that the cause of peace has advanced. Unfortunately, that day has not yet come !

In reality, the impressive figures often quoted to show how widespread the movement is are not an indication of its strength, but a measure of its responsibilities.

This brings us one of the most serious difficulties which the Red Cross has at present to face. It is vital, when so many

essential human values are trodden underfoot, that each member take it on himself to further the Red Cross ideal by his own attitude, by the influence of his faith and actions. In regard to the immediate future, this may appear pointless. It is better, however, that the ideal should be high and that we always feel obliged to reach out beyond ourselves. This demand may be abnormal, but the times are not less so.

But the contrast between high ideals and a world crazy with fear explains, to some extent, why the appeals of the Red Cross appear to arouse a fainter response today ; it throws a light on the shortcomings apparent in all too many leaders and members of humanitarian organizations. The design is so lofty, how could men always be worthy of it ? The Red Cross should never serve as an alibi or pretext ; it is an opportunity for proving the power of ideals, and for showing that mankind is becoming aware of itself and of its destiny. It is thus most urgent for each one of us to have a sense of his mission. We can then give practical expression to the spirit of peace—an essential prerequisite of the coming of that era of peace for which, as we have seen, the Red Cross longs.

PRESS RELEASES

DELEGATES OF THE WORLD COUNCIL OF PEACE VISIT THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

Geneva, October 23, 1951.

On Tuesday, delegates of the World Council of Peace, M. Joliot-Curie, President, M^{me} Cotton, President of the Women's International Democratic Alliance, M. Yves Farge, former Minister, Professors Infeld and André Bonnard, visited the headquarters of the International Committee.

M. Joliot-Curie and his colleagues were received by MM. Boissier, Gloor and Bodmer, Vice-Presidents of the International Committee, and members of the administration.

This meeting (at the request of the World Council of Peace) was an occasion for a useful exchange of views upon questions which, within their respective spheres, are of interest both to the International Committee and the World Council of Peace.

EMERGENCY RELIEF FOR ITALY

Geneva, November 20, 1951.

In view of the appalling devastations by flood in Italy, the International Committee of the Red Cross at Geneva has decided to send an emergency relief column; it left Geneva at midday for Bologna, via the Simplon and Milan.

Three of the white lorries bearing the red cross have taken blankets and sheets, and sufficient milk and tinned soup and meat to feed a thousand people for ten days; a quantity of medical supplies was also included.

The team, under the control of two Delegates, will place itself at the disposal of the Italian Red Cross and Authorities.

In the sphere which belongs more specifically to it—relief to the victims of war and its consequences—the Committee very recently allocated a quarter of a million Swiss francs for the victims, direct and indirect, of hostilities in Italy. This relief, financed by the Committee's Relief Fund, will be supervised by the Italian Red Cross and will assist military and civilian repatriates, war invalids, and tuberculous military personnel. It will also cover the upkeep of a hospital for tuberculous children from those parts of Central and Southern Italy, which suffered particularly during the War.

The President of the International Committee has informed the President of the Italian Red Cross, that in view of the extent of the present catastrophe in Italy, the Committee is quite willing that part of the relief just mentioned should be appropriated for use in the emergency which has now arisen.