

FEBRUARY

FIFTH YEAR — N° 47

# International Review of the Red Cross



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GENEVA  
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FIFTH YEAR — No. 47

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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

\*

### SPANISH

F. Siordet: Difusión de los Convenios de Ginebra. — La enseñanza del derecho humanitario. — Los Jóvenes manifiestan...

### GERMAN

F. Siordet: Verbreitung der Genfer Abkommen. — Demission. — Der Unterricht des humanitären Völkerrechts. — Solidaritätsbeweis der Jugend...

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# Dissemination

of the

## Geneva Conventions<sup>1</sup>

by F. Siordet

Amongst the articles common to the four Geneva Conventions of 1949 can be found the following provisions, the whole of the first part of which is identical in all four treaties:

*Geneva Convention for the amelioration of the condition of the wounded and sick in armed forces in the field* (art. 47)

and

*Geneva Convention for the amelioration of wounded, sick and shipwrecked members of armed forces at sea* (art. 48)

“ The High Contracting Parties undertake, in time of peace as in time of war, to disseminate the text of the present Convention as widely as possible in their respective countries, and, in particular, to include the study thereof in their programmes of military and, if possible, civil instruction, so that the principles thereof may become known to the entire population, in particular to the armed fighting forces, the medical personnel and the chaplains.”

*Geneva Convention relative to the treatment of prisoners of war*  
(art. 127)

“ The High Contracting Parties undertake, in time of peace as in time of war, to disseminate the text of the present Convention as widely as possible in their respective countries, and in particular to include the study thereof in their programmes of military and, if possible, civil instruction, so that the principles thereof may become known to all their armed forces and to the entire population.

Any military or other authorities, who in time of war assume responsibilities in respect of prisoners of war, must possess the text of the Convention and be specially instructed as to its provisions.”

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<sup>1</sup> This paper (of which we now publish extracts) and that of Mr. des Cilleuls were presented to the Second International Congress of the Neutrality of Medicine, Paris, November 1964. (*Ed.*)

## Dissemination of the Geneva Conventions

### *Geneva Convention relative to the protection of civilian persons in time of war (art. 144)*

" The High Contracting Parties undertake, in time of peace as in time of war, to disseminate the text of the present Convention as widely as possible in their respective countries, and, in particular, to include the study thereof in their programmes of military and, if possible, civil instruction, so that the principles thereof may become known to the entire population.

" Any civilian, military, police or other authorities, who in time of war assume responsibilities in respect of protected persons, must possess the text of the Convention and be specially instructed as to its provisions."

For laws or international treaties to fulfil their function, it is not sufficient for them to be signed, promulgated or ratified. Two other conditions are necessary: a) that they should be known and b) that the determination exists to apply them.

This is truer than elsewhere in so far as the humanitarian Conventions of Geneva are concerned.

These Conventions explicitly affirm a certain number of principles bearing upon personal dignity, respect for life and the avoidance of unnecessary suffering, principles which all agree to consider as being imperative and valid in all circumstances and at all times, since they are intrinsically good and abandoning them would mean the destruction of civilization and a return to the law of the jungle.

The state of war leads to a general disruption of values. Under the influence of fear, resentment or hatred, notions which were considered to be the most established, even sacred, are easily revised. The determination to survive or to win at all costs, if it stimulates energies, blunts men's consciences, rendering them less particular as to methods of fighting in proportion to the desired result. The search for immediate success makes the combatants blind to the long-term consequences which can be brought about by the abuse of force, the disregard of established rules and the accumulation of individual suffering. To mention only the last world conflict, will one ever be able to estimate the amount of destruction, material and moral ruin and human suffering inflicted in sheer loss, and that of millions of men, women and children exterminated by bombing or in the camps whose deaths had not the slightest effect on the final outcome of the conflict ?

By signing, then ratifying the four Geneva Conventions of 1949, the civilized States considered it right, faced with this state of affairs, to promulgate afresh, in the most solemn fashion, that even the so-called "necessities of war" cannot permit everything and that humanity itself has its own exigencies which are superior to them. They undertook to respect these in all circumstances, unconditionally, without even subordinating them to the rule of reciprocity. When they did this, the States recognized the usefulness of the previous Conventions, those of 1929, which in countries where they were legally in force and as regards the then limited number of people which they were aimed at, succeeded in saving millions of lives.<sup>1</sup> They also wanted these Conventions to be improved in the future, that they cover every category of victim of conflicts, civilians as well as military, and that they would be really universal.

This wish has been fulfilled. Since then the Geneva Conventions of 1949, four in number, have so far been ratified by 103 countries, that is to say by nearly every State in the world, including the Great Powers. One is therefore entitled to think that should a new conflict break out, these Conventions would save proportionally more people than did those of 1929.

Certainly, the 1929 prisoners-of-war code has not always been strictly applied, far from it. There have been violations, more or less grave, non-compliance and inefficiency and it was necessary for 11,000 visits to be made to camps by a handful of ICRC delegates and by representatives of the Protecting Powers to ensure its relatively correct observation. One had to struggle against the ill will of certain authorities or junior officials, against such obstacles as ignorance. Now, of all cases of non-observance of

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<sup>1</sup> In order to judge the effectiveness of the 1929 Conventions, one need only compare mortality rates:

- a) in prisoner-of-war camps beneficiary from the Conventions,
- b) in prisoner-of-war camps in which the Conventions were not legally in force, in the absence of ratification by one or other of the belligerent parties;
- c) in civilian concentration camps for which no Convention existed.

In case a) the mortality rate was generally about 10 %, that is to say, normal. In cases b) and c) the rate was, according to the camp 30 %, 60 %, even as high as 90 %.

One can make a similar comparison in so far as delayed consequences of internment were concerned.

the Conventions of 1929, ignorance is to be met with the most frequently.

The 1949 Geneva Conventions concern all the world. They no longer protect only military wounded, sick or prisoners, but also civilians, individuals or populations who find themselves in one way or another in the power of the enemy. Each human being may one day have either to invoke the benefit of one or other of the Conventions, or apply them to an enemy. Consequently, it has become vitally important to have a thorough knowledge of these treaties and in any case of their motivating principles.

This is indeed what those who drew up the Geneva Conventions, the plenipotentiaries who signed them and the parliaments ratifying them have understood. That is why they have adopted the articles reproduced above. By these provisions, the States have undertaken to disseminate the Conventions in a more extensive manner and already in time of peace, by incorporating them as obligatory study in programmes of military and, as far as possible, civil instruction. This formal engagement is not and should not be regarded as a mere figure of speech. One can in fact say that these are the Conventions' first practical measures of execution, without which they would risk remaining inoperative, at least in the opening phases of a conflict. It is therefore the bounden duty, obligation " number one ", of governments to put these articles into application.

One is, however, obliged to observe that, apart from a few honourable exceptions, the majority of States parties to the Geneva Conventions have not yet undertaken anything of a serious nature in this field. One could restrict oneself to merely recording this fact by deploring it and remain there, since the responsibility is incumbent on governments. However, as we have already pointed out, the respect for the Conventions concerns all human beings. One cannot therefore remain indifferent to this situation and all who are conscious of the saving qualities of the humanitarian Conventions must question themselves to see what they can do, each in his own sphere and according to his means, in order to help in this dissemination as demanded by the texts themselves.

As far as it is concerned, the ICRC, promoter of the Geneva Conventions for more than a hundred years, has done everything in its power. Immediately after the Diplomatic Conference of Geneva,

it undertook the publication both of the Conventions and of a series of technical or popular works, relating either to the whole of the four Conventions or to particular problems.

Furthermore, through numerous press articles, lectures, discussions, the members of those on the ICRC staff have attempted to familiarize the general public with the Geneva texts. In addition, the ICRC has prepared a model course in five lessons which has been widely distributed and can serve as the basis for courses designed for every sort of circle. Finally, it is always ready, as it stated at the first International Congress of the Neutrality of Medicine in Paris, in 1959, to organize seminars in Geneva for all those doctors, lawyers or others interesting themselves in the application of the Conventions or to send out its qualified experts to organize such seminars. One of these was arranged at ICRC headquarters in August 1963 during the Red Cross Centenary celebrations.

Several National Red Cross Societies for their part have made some remarkable efforts to spread the Geneva Conventions.

However much has been seriously achieved, it can never be other than a partial contribution. Neither the ICRC, the National Red Cross Societies nor any private institution dispose of unlimited means. Above all, they do not have the possibilities of giving military or civilian instruction. Only governments, through their appropriate ministries, are able to ensure that thorough dissemination can be given, repeated each year, in military establishments and schools, that such instruction is made obligatory and that anyone exercising even the vestige of authority, who one day may have to apply the Conventions, can be systematically taught. All efforts made by private associations to disseminate the Conventions can greatly assist governments to fulfil their obligations; they must not, however, at all costs relieve governments from a responsibility which they have wittingly undertaken.

**FRÉDÉRIC SIORDET**

Member of the  
International Committee of the Red Cross

# **Plan of Action**

for the

## **Dissemination of the Geneva Conventions**

*by J. des Cilleuls*

The report which has been entrusted to us as French co-rapporteur attempts to complete that which we submitted to the International Congress of the Neutrality of Medicine in Time of War, held in Paris on April 6 to 8, 1959<sup>1</sup>.

Several weeks later, the *Revue Internationale des Services de Santé* published directives of action for the dissemination of the Geneva Conventions by Lieutenant-Colonel R. Belvaux of the Belgian Army, as a result of an international enquiry undertaken by the International Committee of Military Medicine and Pharmacy and to which 27 countries had replied.

Lieut.-Col. Belvaux concluded that "the least one can say is that, apart from some exceptions, there is still a long way to go before one be assured that the general public, which is however the great beneficiary, has a sufficient knowledge of the four Geneva Conventions". . .

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<sup>1</sup> Following on this report:

The International Congress of the Neutrality of Medicine, recognizing the value of the provisions of the four Geneva Conventions of August 12, 1949 at present ratified by nearly every State, convinced that these Conventions, to produce their full effect, must be widely disseminated, as their signatories have expressly undertaken to do, expressed the wish:

"that the medical body in each country intervenes with the public Authorities in order to urge them to develop the dissemination of these Conventions, notably in schools, universities and military establishments and actively aids them in this task, in co-operation with legal experts specially qualified to give such assistance."

## Plan of Action for the Dissemination of the Geneva Conventions

This conclusion has lost none of its value.

Speaking at the National Medical Academy on May 5, 1964 concerning Medical Major-General J. Voncken's paper on *The development and progress of international medical law* in which he insisted, amongst other desiderata, on the necessity of ensuring the dissemination and instruction of the principles defended by the Red Cross, Professor Charles Richet expressed himself as follows:

" . . . In these days of moral barbarism which we are passing through, since never in the history of the world has there been such a blood-stained period as this half century, one of the most effective ways of fighting against such barbarism is to disseminate the Geneva Conventions. Now it can be seen that they are unknown to many.

. . . The large organizations should place once again at the head of their programmes the categorical way in which the Geneva Conventions insist on the absolute neutrality of doctors in the service of others, of their assistants, of the wounded, of treatment centres and of the civilian population in all conflicts, whether external or internal . . ."

Professor Charles Richet concluded by asking the Academy, the guardian of medical morale, to take action in the hope that such intervention might be decisive.

In June 1959, in order to facilitate this task, Mr. J. Pictet had made known a "working plan drawn up by the International Committee of the Red Cross to intensify the dissemination of the Geneva Conventions amongst the armed forces and the medical body."

"For a belligerent State to meet its obligations" he said, "it must be prepared for them both materially and morally. The application of humanitarian law should therefore form part of its knowledge and it cannot be too often emphasized how necessary is its dissemination. The application of the humanitarian provisions should be natural conduct and instinctive amongst combatants and each human being . . ."

In December 1960, in connection with the dissemination of the Geneva Conventions we once more drew the attention of the Society of French Military Medicine to the essential requirements which this dissemination demanded, namely:

## Plan of Action for the Dissemination of the Geneva Conventions

1. The necessity of *homogeneous* instruction, *co-ordinated* with the efforts made by the Red Cross, *definitely* integrated in civilian and military programmes of instruction, withdrawn as far as possible from various influences which could hinder its regularity, also of its being judiciously implemented according to the type and the age of the students, with an adequate number of hours for its realization.
2. The importance of entrusting this teaching to qualified instructors, prepared generally for their task, having previous and sufficient knowledge of the humanitarian Conventions and of the commentaries attached thereto.
3. The need for supplying instructors and students with documentation enabling them to broaden their knowledge, to appreciate the full value of the Conventions and the merits of their dissemination, not only for those who are likely to be beneficiaries, but also for those who might have to apply them and be in a position to report on their infractions.

We have on a number of occasions insisted on the dissemination of the elementary principles of the Geneva Conventions being undertaken in the primary schools by teachers with the necessary knowledge. The teaching of children in this subject must be given in a lively form by visual methods, such as pictures and films, at a time when their minds and feelings are particularly awakened. One is entitled to think that those amongst them who will later continue their education in secondary schools, then at the university level, will be more inclined gradually to absorb further instruction in the Conventions.

This is also valid for the armed forces where one cannot lay enough emphasis on the importance of the humanitarian Conventions, on their merits and the imperious obligation of applying their rules.

This reminder, however, can have no fruitful result unless those whom it is addressing are definitely convinced of the moral range of these rules whose object is fully to ensure protection and the care of military wounded and sick, who have become defenceless, as well as to treat prisoners of war and the civilian population with humanity.

## Plan of Action for the Dissemination of the Geneva Conventions

We consider it indispensable to entrust to doctors, who have the health of the troops in their hands, the responsibility of fostering amongst them and non-commissioned officers knowledge of the humanitarian principles, especially as it is not rare to find that many of them are unaware of the very existence of the Geneva Conventions. Military medical officers, most of whom have taken part in recent campaigns, are particularly qualified to be listened to with conviction and to demonstrate the rights of the individual. *The work of Geneva cannot be successful unless minds and hearts are associated with it.*

As regards cadres, dissemination should be made in a regular manner in all military schools, including those preparatory to a career in the armed forces and naturally also the large colleges for young officers of all arms and services, the training and senior staff colleges.

As regards the Medical Service in France, the principal provisions of the Geneva Conventions are taught at the following:

- 1) *To male nurses*
  - a) Inter-regional Instruction Centres
  - b) Naval Nursing Schools
  - c) Air nursing training centres
- 2) *N.C.O.'s*
  - a) Medical Services Training School for non-commissioned officers, Mourmelon
  - b) Naval petty-officer nurses
  - c) Air Force N.C.O. nurses
- 3) *Reservist Establishments*
  - a) Doctors, chemists and dentists at Libourne
  - b) Administrative reservist establishments at Lyons
- 4) *Officers*
  - a) Training School, Val-de-Grâce
  - b) Training School, Toulon
  - c) Air Training School at C.E.R.M.A.
- 5) *Students attending Schools*
  - a) Principal medical service school of Bordeaux
  - b) Military medical service school of Lyons where instruction is about to be given.

Recalling that the co-signatory Powers of the Geneva Conventions of August 12, 1949 undertook to disseminate their texts as widely as possible in their respective countries, the Central Direct-

## Plan of Action for the Dissemination of the Geneva Conventions

orate of the Army Medical Services, through Generals commanding Army Corps, again recently requested<sup>1</sup> the following:

- Regional directors of the Medical Service in France and in French Departments overseas
- Directors of Air and Maritime regions
- Directors of Army Medical Service Training School and Hospital, Val-de-Grâce, Army Medical Service School (Lyons)
- Principal Naval Medical Service Training School (Bordeaux)
- Training and Research Centre of Aeronautical Medicine
- Armed Forces Medical Services Research Centre
- Supply, manufacture and central establishments of the Armed forces medical services

to *ensure* that personnel under their authority know the essential principles of the four Conventions. It attaches, in fact, the *highest value* to the dissemination amongst all members of the Medical Service of the humanitarian provisions contained in the said Conventions.

As a reminder, it once again mentioned that *Official Bulletin* No. 110-0, issued on January 1, 1953, is devoted to the Law of Nations and the humanitarian Conventions.

The instructors' task is a delicate one. The dissemination of the Conventions, the condition of their correct application, is frequently the subject of erroneous argument, most often of a superficial nature. It is argued that certain provisions of the Conventions are no longer in keeping with the present-day character of hostilities and military exigencies. On the other hand, the different ideological beliefs and the discordant interpretations of the meaning and value of the terms employed add to the difficulties encountered. Some even go so far as to say that the Conventions should be confronted anew with facts and exigencies which have appeared in the past few years in the conduct of military operations.

The instructor should be capable of answering these objections and demonstrating that *respect for the human person and his dignity dominates the condition and methods of warfare* and that, under no circumstances, can this exigency, the essential basis of all civilization, be avoided.

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<sup>1</sup> Circular No. 782 CAB/DSSA of February 22, 1962, relative to the Geneva Conventions.

## Plan of Action for the Dissemination of the Geneva Conventions

The texts of the Conventions are in the possession of all military doctors and also of medical units, hospital establishments and the directing staffs of the medical services. Furthermore, cadres and the various services of the armed forces each dispose of one copy of the collection of the *Official Bulletin*, containing four hundred pages devoted to the law of nations and the humanitarian Conventions. This documentation evidently requires the adjunct of word and illustration, in the form of films, in order completely to fulfil its purpose.

We would add that the International Committee of the Red Cross has produced a model course of five lessons which it has recently sent to governments, faculties of law and political science, so that the Geneva texts may be included in the instruction of international law.

*The implementation of the regular dissemination of the Conventions in the armed forces and in establishments dependent on the Ministry of Education must, once and for all, be the outcome of a definite regulation, delineating the phases and methods of its execution by subordinate grades, itself being subjected to the vigilance of higher authority.*

So long as such a regulation has not become an accomplished fact, this implementation will be dependent on the hazards of personal rather than official initiatives. It will consequently remain inadequate, if not inexistent.

As regards troops destined to participate in operations of war or of pacification, we should recall, as an example to consider, retain and follow, the *memorandum* addressed on November 10, 1961, by the International Committee of the Red Cross to the governments of all States parties to the Geneva Conventions and members of the United Nations. This Memorandum, which refers to the application of the Conventions by military contingents placed at the UN's disposal and to the instruction of the humanitarian principles which they contain to members of its armed forces, stresses that ". . . The United Nations Organization is not, as such, party to the Geneva Conventions. Consequently, each State is *personally responsible* for the application of these Conventions, when supplying a contingent to the United Nations. It would, therefore, be highly desirable that such contingents receive, *before leaving their own*

## Plan of Action for the Dissemination of the Geneva Conventions

*countries, instructions to conform to the provisions of the Geneva Conventions in the event of their finding themselves having to use force."*<sup>1</sup>

Furthermore, it is also important to recall that the Conventions should not only be known to those who may benefit from their provisions, but also to those having to apply them and may have *to render an account of their actions or of their infractions.*

Thus, as Mr. Jean Pictet has written, widely to disseminate the Geneva Conventions is not only to favour their application in time of war, it is also to spread the principles of humanity and thereby contribute to the development of the spirit of peace amongst peoples.

### **JEAN DES CILLEULS**

President of the

" Société de Droit International Médical "

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<sup>1</sup> The Delegates of the Centenary Congress of the International Red Cross (Geneva, September 2-9, 1963) in addition recommended " that the authorities responsible for these contingents should agree to take all necessary measures to prevent and restrain any infringements of the said Conventions ".

During the same period a motion adopted at the 25th session of the International Office of Military Medicine Documentation (Lausanne, 1963) and transmitted to the General Secretariat of UNO by the Swiss Federal Government, stressed the necessity for the HQ of UN forces to have an adviser or a medico-military section, capable of drawing up plans for the organization of homogeneous medical services having, obviously, to accompany the disparate forces placed at the disposal of the Security Council.

# INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

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## *EXTERNAL ACTIVITIES*

### **Malaysia**

Although the Malaysian Government does not accept the Geneva Conventions as being applicable to the armed conflict in which Indonesia is opposing it, the International Committee of the Red Cross has been authorized to carry out its humanitarian activity on behalf of the Indonesian victims of that conflict. Its general delegate for Asia, Mr. André Durand, visited in December 1964 and January 1965, a number of Indonesians who had fallen into the hands of the Malaysian authorities.

During his stay in Kuala Lumpur, Mr. Durand was received by Tunku Abdul Rahman, the Prime Minister, and by other government representatives who promised him all facilities to visit the Indonesian prisoners and transmit their mail. These are not considered to be prisoners of war within the meaning of the Geneva Conventions. However, on the intervention of the ICRC delegate, two Indonesian nationals under sentence of death have had an indefinite stay of execution.

The prisoners visited by the delegate were at Saremban, Johore Bahru and Singapore, as well as in Sarawak and Sabah in North Borneo. They are all detained in prison following on sentences by the courts or by reason of the legal provisions relative to national security. During the course of his visit, Mr. Durand collected some 200 letters for the prisoners' families. Thanks to the intermediary of the Red Cross Society of the Federation of Malaya, this mail was despatched, via Bangkok, to the Indonesian Red Cross which will forward it to the families concerned.

Before going to Kuala Lumpur, the delegate of the ICRC had stopped in Djakarta where he was cordially welcomed by the leading members of the Indonesian Red Cross. He noted that that Society had been called upon to give instruction in the Geneva Conventions to several groups of volunteers engaged in the fighting against Malaysia.

The ICRC remains at the disposal of both sides to pursue its humanitarian task on behalf of all victims of the conflict.

## Viet Nam

As part of its activity on behalf of the victims of the conflict in South Viet Nam, the International Committee attempted over Christmas to send parcels destined to several American military held in the jungle by the Vietcong. The ICRC is trying to assure itself that these despatches really reached their destination.

This is the second Christmas running that some of these Americans had passed in captivity.

The ICRC has already made repeated approaches on behalf of military and civilians captured by the forces of the "National Liberation Front of South Viet Nam". So far it has received no official reply.

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In October 1964, Mr. Werner Muller, ICRC delegate in Saigon, visited various places of detention at Côn-Son<sup>1</sup>. He was accompanied by leading members of the National Red Cross.

During these visits, Mr. Muller distributed ICRC relief in the camps and infirmaries. This consisted of soap, cigarettes and also mosquito nets for the infirmaries.

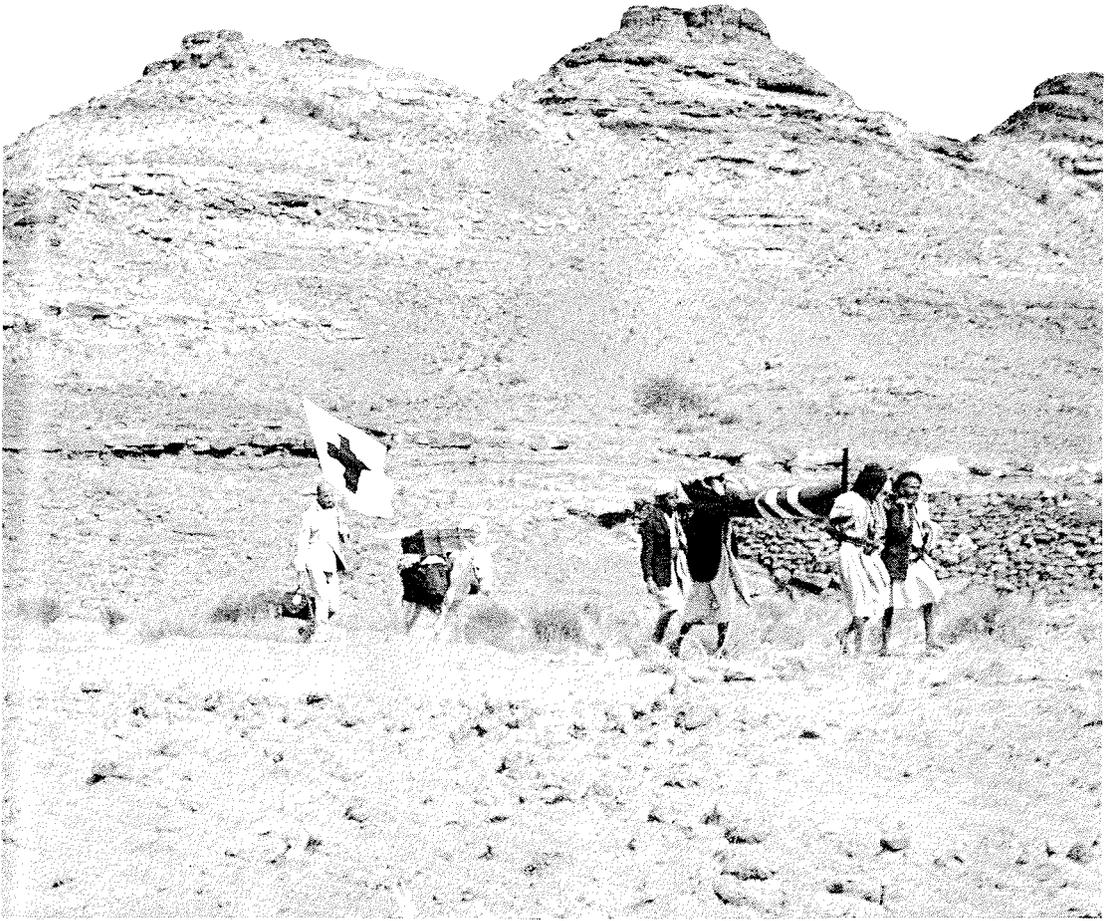
## Yemen

Whilst Mr. André Rochat, head of the ICRC delegation in the Yemen, returned to Geneva in January 1965 to report on his activi-

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<sup>1</sup> *Plate* : 1) At the Côn-Son Centre, distribution of ICRC relief to the internees. 2) Mr. Muller, ICRC delegate, visiting sick internees at the infirmary of the Tân-Hiêp Centre.

YEMEN



Under the protection of the Red Cross flag, a wounded Egyptian prisoner of war being transported across the desert.

YEMEN



Sanaa. — A child learning to use crutches given to him by the ICRC.



At the Côn-Son Centre: Distribution of ICRC relief to internees.

## SOUTH VIET NAM



Mr. Muller, ICRC delegate, visiting sick internees at the infirmary of the Tân-Hiệp Centre.

LAOS



Accompanied by a representative of the Laotian Red Cross, Mr. Baer, delegate of the ICRC, distributing school equipment to children at Ban Pha Ma.

ties and to discuss the future of the Yemen mission with the International Committee, the delegates continued to visit prisoners held on both sides, Republican and Royalist. The delegation has continued to take steps with a view to their exchange and repatriation.

\* \* \*

Twice within a month the doctor delegates and male nurses of the Uqhd hospital went to areas close to the fighting in order to bring aid to prisoners of war, supply the local Yemeni population with medical material and investigate the condition of the sick and wounded who could not be moved. They were able to speak with prisoners and hand them mail. On the other hand, an ICRC delegation, coming from Sanaa, passed through desert regions, often crossing the firing lines, in order to discuss with the tribal chiefs exchanges of prisoners, which the ICRC always attempts to achieve. They also reviewed problems concerning the International Committee's humanitarian action with several leading Royalist personalities.

\* \* \*

Having learnt that an Egyptian prisoner of war had, in December 1964, had an accident in which a leg and an arm had been fractured, Mr. Rochat and Mr. Boisard, ICRC delegates, obtained the release by the Yemeni chief of the wounded prisoner.

He was then handed over to the Red Cross delegation under certain conditions and transported by stretcher over the mountains to Sanaa where he received the necessary treatment. The difficulties involved in crossing the firing lines and over long stretches across the desert can be imagined <sup>1</sup>.

At Sanaa, the International Committee donated appliances and crutches for civilian amputated cases.

This is being undertaken in conjunction with the ICRC's action on behalf of Yemeni war disabled. Crutches were thus able to be given to children as well as to adults.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *Plate* : A wounded Egyptian prisoner of war being transported across the desert, under the protection of the Red Cross flag.

<sup>2</sup> *Plate* : Sanaa. A child learning to use crutches given to him by the ICRC.

## Congo

*Visits to detainees.* Mrs. Jeanne Egger, ICRC delegate in Leopoldville, accompanied by a member of the Swiss medical unit in the Congo, visited the Ndolo and Makala prisons, not far from the capital. Relief supplies were distributed to the detainees, thanks to the "Entr'aide protestante".

*Assistance to the Stanleyville population.* — The value of relief supplies delivered to Stanleyville by the ICRC delegates before and for several days after the taking of the town by the Congolese National Army, amounted to Sw. Frs. 47,889.—. The main consignment (medical, surgical and hospital supplies for the most part) worth Sw. Frs. 28,450.—, arrived on September 25 by air in a plane chartered by the ICRC, when the rebels were still in possession of the town.

*The courage of the Congolese Red Cross.* — In difficult and often dangerous circumstances, the Congolese Red Cross first-aiders displayed admirable devotion to their task, frequently intervening courageously to check brutality during the strife afflicting their country. Several Congolese first-aid workers have lost their lives while carrying out their work. In the Bunia region, three of them were killed and eight have been posted as missing.

In Stanleyville and the troubled Kindu province, the Congolese first-aiders, according to reports from the ICRC delegation in the Congo, have been carrying out a magnificent job, tending the wounded and sick and assisting the population.

Apart from its other tasks, the Stanleyville team helped in parcel distribution at Christmas.

## Ceylon

Mr. Samuel A. Gonard, President of the ICRC, when in Ceylon, visited that country's Red Cross Society in January 1965. He was received by Mr. Gunawardena, Chairman of the Council, and Mr. Samaranayake, Chairman of its Finance Committee. He also

visited Mr. Gopallawa, President of the Society and Governor-General of the island. With them he discussed various problems with which the Society is being faced and he expressed to them the ICRC's sympathy for the victims of the recent cyclone.

## Laos

The *International Review* has already referred on a number of occasions to the relief action being undertaken by Dr. Jurg Baer, delegate of the ICRC, on behalf of the victims of events in Laos.

In the framework of this action and in co-operation with the Laotian Red Cross, Dr. Baer has been able to give educational equipment to school children at Ban Pha Ma, donated by the American Junior Red Cross.<sup>1</sup> This distribution was made in January 1965. Dr. Baer was then accompanied by Mrs. Oudom Souvannavong, wife of the President of the Laotian Red Cross, and Mrs. Musa, member of the Women's Committee of that National Society.

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<sup>1</sup> *Plate* : Dr. Baer distributing school equipment to children at Ban Pha Ma, accompanied by a representative of the Laotian Red Cross.

IN GENEVA

**Resignation**

Mr. Carl J. Burckhardt, member of the ICRC, has recently asked to be relieved of his duties. This resignation was announced by Mr. S. A. Gonard, the President, at a plenary session of the International Committee of the Red Cross, on January 6, 1965. A ceremony took place on that occasion at which were present many members of the ICRC, directors and heads of Services, as well as some who had worked especially closely with Mr. Burckhardt.

In an address, extracts of which are given below, Mr. Gonard first of all recalled the decisive influence exercised by Mr. Burckhardt on the ICRC's evolution. He expressed the International Committee's profound regret, but made it known that it had appointed Mr. Burckhardt honorary member and he was pleased that the Geneva institution could thus still be able to count on his presence and support.

*... " A man of action with a large and wide vision was needed to develop the mechanism of relief until it achieved the importance it acquired at the end of hostilities. You were that far-seeing man of action and organizer to whom countless human beings and so many families owe their survival from their wounds, from prison or still more, their escape from death through starvation.*

*You knew how to adapt the real and legal scope of the ICRC's activities by extending them on a world scale, thereby enabling it to take a decisive turning in its history. For our Committee, it was also a splendid proof of vitality to be able to adapt itself so rapidly, under your impulse, to these new horizons and measures.*

*Whilst until then the ICRC's action had been restricted to land, you engaged the Committee on the high seas and gradually assembled a fleet of forty ships which sailed through perils, year after year, under*

*the Red Cross flag, transporting relief which it obtained from other continents and as far away as the Antipodes. Its distribution necessitated the use of a considerable number of railway lines and when these had been severely damaged by bombing, relief supplies were transported by road, whose total value amounted to three thousand million francs.*

*The setting up of a transportation and distribution organization of such a size, as well as the duty of insisting on the observance of the old Geneva and Hague Conventions, in order to obtain authorization for our delegates to enter prisoner-of-war camps demanded a series of difficult negotiations, particularly delicate diplomatic overtures, in view of the unleashing of passionate hatred between States and individuals and also sometimes of the unusual attitude of those engaged.*

*Amongst many other approaches and discussions, you initiated joint action by the ICRC and the League with the creation in 1941 of the mixed relief commission to aid civilian populations in countries laid waste by the war. Other more arduous negotiations with the European totalitarian States of the period resulted, thanks to your firmness, in an amelioration in the condition of prisoners and detainees. From the Allies, whose representatives were also bitter in discussion, you obtained several important exceptions to the rigorous blockade they maintained. On behalf of Greece, which retains feelings of lasting and deep gratitude to you, you negotiated the Rome Agreements of 1943 with Sweden and with the endorsement of the German and Italian governments of occupation. These Agreements set up the Administrative Commission of relief for Greece, which supplied regular aid to 1,300,000 persons during the occupation and saved them from famine.*

*If each one of these diplomatic actions, and how many others could I not mention, possessed its own significance and humanitarian purpose, it would appear to me that, taken as a whole, they would reach an even higher symbolical level.*

*In all these dealings in which the ICRC negotiated from State to State, you introduced the International Committee to a certain extent into international law, since the ICRC has been recognized not only as a subject of international law in the same way as States, not as an abstract creation of theoretical law, but on the contrary as a valuable, effective and voluntary factor in positive international law with which one had henceforth to reckon " . . .*

Mr. Carl Burckhardt then spoke. He said how pleased he was, as honorary member, to be able to keep contact with the work of the Red Cross to which he was so deeply attached. He recalled, in particular, the years of war during which he had the privilege of working closely with Max Huber and he expressed all his gratitude to his colleagues and close associates for having helped him in a practical task which continued to increase since 1939. A task, he said, which certainly required much audacity but also constant prudence :

*“ The ICRC’s very nature demands action which is prudent, appropriate to the circumstances but decided and rapid. Our tasks, which are brought about by the world’s misfortunes, reach us in successive waves and are sometimes hurled by the tempest. Certainly, we have to conform to a doctrine which we must defend and we must diffuse its fundamental principles which give life to the Geneva Conventions. But, whatever the extent of the idea animating us, for the ICRC it will always be essential to carry out relief actions, of a moral nature first of all through the Agency and its various sections, then material actions which are ever further extended and which reached a decisive stage when, during the course of the last war, we extended our efforts to the civilian population. We are a relief organization and not a supreme court of law, nor are we the upholders of some lay religion. We well know how difficult it is to give aid when one has to traverse partisan passions or pass between the victors and the vanquished. In all circumstances we will only know our fellow-beings who are suffering. It is for this very reason that we should not assume upon ourselves the right to condemn or that of raising our voices in vain protests . . . ”*

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## At the University of Geneva

The Geneva State Council has just appointed Mr. Jean Pictet to be in charge of courses in humanitarian law at the Faculty of Law. The International Committee of the Red Cross is doubly pleased by this appointment since, if Mr. Pictet is Director for General Affairs of the ICRC, he is also at the present time one of the jurists who have most knowledge of that part of the law of nations which, notably under the influence of the Red Cross movement, aims at protecting the victims of both international and civil war.

It is unnecessary to recall in a Review to which he has so often contributed, that Mr. Pictet has published important studies on humanitarian law and Red Cross principles.

The Faculty of Law of Geneva University is one of the first to introduce the regular teaching of humanitarian law into its curriculum. To our knowledge some graduate institutes in the world, still far too rarely, have created or have manifested the intention of creating a chair (or of organizing seminars) of humanitarian law. It should, however, be pointed out that the study of the Geneva Conventions is certainly an integral part of courses in international law in various countries.

Now, for some time past, the International Committee of the Red Cross has been hoping that similar instruction be given at universities. The Geneva Conventions have become the heritage of all and one of the prime necessities is that they be widely known. Incorporated into public international law, since their ratification or accession by the Powers have made of them law, they can and must be studied as they deserve to be, and in accordance with international engagements in the framework of official instruction in all countries.

The Geneva Conventions occupy a privileged position in the law of nations. The very fact of their existence and that so many States are bound by them indeed show that a law of humanity has already been created.

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## At the Central Tracing Agency

*After nineteen years, a family in touch again.* — Mrs. D., with her four daughters and one son, lived in a small Ukrainian village until 1943, when the German occupation forces sent the family to Germany, from which country they originated.

Her son was immediately drafted into the army and her daughters had to go their separate ways to earn a living.

After hostilities, one of the girls, Olga, returned to the USSR, married and settled far from her native village. She had had no news from her family since 1945, but at her request and through the intermediary of the Red Cross of the USSR, the Central Tracing Agency at the ICRC Geneva headquarters received last March her query "Is my family still alive?"

Painstaking investigation revealed that her sister Martha had emigrated to Canada immediately after the war; she had married and been joined by her mother, her sister Alma and her brother Jonat. She had also kept in touch with the fourth sister who had settled in California.

Thus, in spite of enquiries being hampered by the changed names of three of the daughters, upon their marriage, the sister in the USSR was able by correspondence to renew the family ties which had been severed for nineteen years.

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# IN THE RED CROSS WORLD

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## DISSEMINATION OF THE GENEVA CONVENTIONS IN THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY

*There are principles, such as those of the Red Cross, which must be maintained at any price and there are humanitarian conventions which, reflecting a minimum degree of humanity, must be respected by everybody. National Societies in every country are concerned with their dissemination and we all know the importance attributed to such efforts by the ICRC, which itself sponsors and reinforces them in a variety of ways.*

*At Founex, near Geneva, an "International Study Centre for leaders of young National Societies" was organized by the League of Red Cross Societies as part of the Centenary programme. A number of lectures were presented on the activities of the Red Cross in the world today. One of the speakers dealt with the dissemination of the Geneva Conventions by the Red Cross Society in the German Federal Republic and we think it worthwhile to reproduce the text as a description of Red Cross activity in this particular field, for the dissemination of the Geneva Conventions does not imply acceptance of war; quite the contrary, it contributes to the struggle against war by defending those moral principles which inspire the Red Cross and which affirm human solidarity and peaceful aspirations.*

*The text given below is by Mr. Willy Heudtlass, Director of the Press and Radio Service of the Red Cross in the Federal Republic of Germany and, in so far as it concerns the Geneva Conventions, is the result of co-operation between the author and Mr. H. Hülsemann, that National Society's legal adviser.*

## In the Red Cross World

Gathered here for the Centenary of the Red Cross, we can be proud that we are the representatives of a humanitarian idea and of the organization inspired by that idea which, in nearly every country of the world, has for a century been doing more for peace between the nations and for fraternity than any other private organization. With even greater pride we can, as representatives of the Red Cross, Red Crescent and Red Lion and Sun, observe that in the name of this idea no man has ever killed ; on the contrary, it has brought to millions of human beings throughout the world mutual assistance in time of distress.

This meeting is attended by many nationals of States which have been founded in the course of the last few years and who only recently have been able to feel that they have practical responsibility for upholding the Red Cross idea. This is not to say that they did not previously feel any responsibility for ideas of peace and fraternity. But the recent emergence of new States has given to many the possibility of acting in their country to promote the work instituted one hundred years ago by Henry Dunant. All who are in sympathy with the movement will appreciate how important for the Red Cross and the dissemination of its ideal throughout the world is the founding of new Societies, that is to say the progressive disappearance of gaps on the map where the Red Cross banner does not fly side by side with the national flag.

In this manner, the number of men and women, and of youths too, fired with the desire to proselytize their fellow citizens to this fine ideal is growing from year to year. The experience of the last hundred years has also shown that belief in the value of a cause is but one of the conditions necessary to serve it effectually. The final aim is to ensure that both in war and peace the inspired principles of the Red Cross spirit shall prevail. For this they must be disseminated as widely as possible. We all know how great sometimes is the distance separating the declaration of principles from their implementation and Henry Dunant himself already pointed out the dangers likely to arise from this fact. In 1894, he wrote to one of his Swiss friends who was a member of the Red Cross : " Mountain warfare can become a terrible thing and if the people are not given instruction beforehand on the Convention and have not assimilated it, if they do not respect its provisions, they might well have to

pay for these shortcomings by suffering drastic reprisals inflicted by the enemy. You would do well to give the text of the Geneva Convention in your next report. The duty of the regional committees everywhere is especially to make known and widely accepted the full extent of these regulations and to make clear the duties and advantages deriving therefrom”.

Thus, you may see that Henry Dunant considered the Geneva Conventions to be effective only in so far as its provisions were known to everybody.

The task of making the full extent of these humanitarian texts known is formally stipulated in the Geneva Conventions of 1949 as an obligation. Dissemination of the text of the Conventions must be carried out as widely as possible ; they should be a subject in programmes of military and civil instruction and the whole population should be given the opportunity to become familiar with them.

By accession in 1954 to the Geneva Conventions of 1949, the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany undertook all the obligations arising therefrom. In addition, the Red Cross too voluntarily committed itself to the dissemination of knowledge on the Conventions among the general public. In this manner, the State and the Red Cross have established two coextensive programmes of instruction. That of the State is intended first and foremost for the *armed forces*, whilst that of the Red Cross is aimed primarily at the *civilian population*.

### **Armed forces**

All members of the “ Bundeswehr ” (Federal army) undergo this course of instruction. . . . All officers follow courses given by the legal advisers of the Army Staff. The duty of instructing other ranks falls on the officers. Teaching is based not only on the text of the International Conventions applicable in the event of war, but also on text-books published by the Ministry of National Defence dealing, inter alia, with each Convention bearing on the Red Cross. There is also other teaching material referring to the Geneva Conventions, such as numerous typical cases and questions with solutions involving the application of international law in time of war, an illustrated primer and a film on the Conventions.

## **In the Red Cross World**

Some of the questions relating to the Geneva Conventions to which the military have to reply are :

1. What International Law Conventions contain the most important provisions relative to the treatment of the wounded, the sick, the shipwrecked and prisoners of war ?
2. Who is entitled to punish members of resistance movements ?
3. Is it permissible to take reprisals against the persons or property of civilian populations ?
4. Is it permissible to inflict punishment on a community ?
5. Is it permissible to take hostages ?
6. What are the protective emblems worn by army medical personnel, or displayed by military hospitals, army medical service vehicles and material ?
7. What are the consequences of wrongful use of the protective emblem, e.g. by the installation of an artillery observation post on a hospital building ?
8. What exemption is to be granted to airborne medical forces ?
9. How are the transport facilities available to airborne medical forces defined and what conditions must be fulfilled for entitlement to their use ?
10. What objects may be taken from prisoners of war and what personal effects may they retain?

### **Civilian population**

The information disseminated by the National Red Cross Society has two objectives : first, it is intended for the members of the Society itself and secondly, its aim is to interest the civil administration (government departments), doctors, clergy, hospital staffs and all other sections of the population involved, including youth. With regard first of all to instruction of the active members of the Red Cross, this is attended to by a central school in Bonn and several schools in the provinces. Courses, conferences and seminars are organized in order to make the principles of the Geneva Conventions known to the lawyers and legal advisers of the Society.

Thus, the Red Cross strives to prepare—for readiness in the event of a war which nobody wants—a network of legal experts having special knowledge which will enable them to make clear to

any occupying forces the statutes that they must observe. And this applies also to the civil population. It is from these legal experts that teaching personnel is sought so that they may pass on their knowledge to members of local organizations. Already nearly every one of the 520 administrative districts has a legal adviser familiar with the provisions of the Geneva Conventions.

The Red Cross has drawn up texts relating to the Geneva Conventions and intended to be used for teaching. They form the basis of the courses for training Red Cross active relief workers. Four courses have been arranged: the first consists of a general introduction and an outline of the importance and effectiveness of the agreements affecting the Red Cross.

Starting with the event which was at the origin of the Red Cross, the battle of Solferino, attention is then given to the development of the outstanding ideas which led to the international conferences of 1863 and 1864 in Geneva. This is followed by an exposition of the fundamental ideas the essentials of which have remained unchanged since 1864, but of which the practical application is constantly being extended.

In the second part of the course, attention is given to the Red Cross sign as an emblem and as a protective insignia. The provisions of the Conventions concerning the use of the Red Cross sign in time of war and of peace are studied analytically. The third part deals with the principles of the Conventions relating to captivity and internment. Finally, the theme of the fourth part is the protection of the civilian population.

Particular importance attaches to this subject. It covers the rights of the population in their relations with an occupying power, the guarantees enabling the National Red Cross Societies to continue operation in occupied territory, and co-operation for the practical implementation of the provisions of the Fourth Geneva Convention affecting the Red Cross. Other subjects include the organization of hospital zones and localities, exemption granted to civilian hospitals and their staffs, the transport of medical equipment, food and clothing for the civilian population, special protective measures for children, repatriation of families, the operation of public health services, various mutual assistance programmes, aid to wounded and sick civilians in regions where fighting takes place.

## In the Red Cross World

When it is not possible to organize conferences in this course, advantage is taken of the others, for example, that covering first aid, to give lectures on the Geneva Conventions and their scope. The same procedure is adopted during other meetings attended by the Red Cross legal advisers. One of the central themes on the agenda might be one of the aspects of the Geneva Conventions, for example : “ guerrilla warfare and international law ”, “ trial of prisoners of war ”, “ the progressive development of the Geneva Conventions and the dangers of atomic war ”.

In order to give instruction to the civil population, advantage is even taken of fêtes, commemorative ceremonies, etc., in order first of all to arouse public interest. If circumstances allow, courses of several days' duration are organized for civil servants, legal experts, doctors; and the clergy. This programme is completed by lectures in schools, youth centres and adult education centres.

The Legal Commission of the German Red Cross undertaking the dissemination of the Geneva Conventions, has divided the country into three regions, namely North, West and South, in order to facilitate arrangements for large meetings in the territory covered by several regional associations of the German Red Cross in the Federal Republic.

The publications issued by the National Society concerning the Geneva Conventions are very varied. They extend from a primer and a summary of the Geneva Conventions to a large volume with texts and explanations ; they range from essays on particular aspects and a wide selection of examples to a volume containing a summary of the conferences. A recently issued illustrated primer, to which I shall revert, is the latest vehicle of instruction. In addition, the International Committee and the League have made other means of instruction available to us.

Whenever possible we have recourse to the press, radio, television and cinema. During the events in Hungary in 1956 great interest was displayed by the German population in the German Red Cross relief train and the strict application of the Geneva Conventions of which this was a manifestation.

It would be appropriate to mention here the excellent work written by Mr. H. Coursier and published by the ICRC under the

title *A Course of Five Lessons on the Geneva Conventions*. The German National Society has recognized its usefulness and has reproduced the successive chapters in its monthly review. But before doing so, it had brought this work to the attention of the faculties of law in all German universities and also of other legal associations and certain administrative authorities. Thanks to these efforts, there are now more than one thousand new recipients of the German Red Cross monthly review.

I would like to add a word on what has been done to enable youth groups to achieve understanding of the Geneva Conventions. The Junior Red Cross seems particularly suited for this task. When the seed of the Red Cross idea is planted early, a good harvest may be expected in later years. Naturally, problems must be presented differently from the manner adopted for instruction to adults and the teaching profession plays an important rôle in this respect. Teachers engaged in work with the Junior Red Cross are able to follow courses and attend seminars either in first aid or in Red Cross principles. The international meetings of educators organized by the League, which are regularly attended by representatives from the German Junior Red Cross, are ideal opportunities for exchanges of experiences and on these occasions the Geneva Conventions are always well to the fore.

These must be interpreted realistically in order to give effective guidance through the maze of paragraphs. A recently published illustrated primer takes into account the intuitive rapidity of young people. This is a booklet which is entitled *Im Geiste von Solferino* (In the Spirit of Solferino) and its purpose is to explain the rights and duties deriving from the Geneva Conventions.

There we have a broad outline of the work of the German Red Cross in the Federal Republic of Germany in connection with the dissemination of the Geneva Conventions among the civilian population. The subject is difficult, as it involves the explanation of legal problems in readily understandable forms to a wide uninitiated public. No country is immune from the danger that the rights and duties provided for by the humanitarian Conventions and which are valid for all may become stark reality. There is therefore a heavy responsibility incumbent on the National Societies of the Red Cross, the Red Crescent and the Red Lion and Sun, both for

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themselves and for the inhabitants of their countries. This is why you must consider the dissemination of the Geneva Conventions in your country as an obligation requiring your utmost efforts.

Just as it is true that a knowledge of a foreign language involves study of the grammar, work within the Red Cross can only be fully effective if based on adequate knowledge of the Geneva Conventions. "Knowledge is power" is an aphorism which has always been true. The Red Cross is a moral force, and its existence and authority should be defended first and foremost with the weapons of the spirit and the mind. That is what the great French poet Victor Hugo meant when he wrote to Henry Dunant: "You are arming humanity".

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## Denmark

### The Red Cross and Refugees

The United Nations High Commission for Refugees, on the occasion of the Red Cross Centenary, published an illustrated brochure entitled *The Red Cross and Refugees*, mention of which was made in the September 1963 issue of the *International Review*. We now learn that, following on the wish formulated by the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees, recommending co-operation between the offices of the United Nations and the National Red Cross Societies on the local level, that is to say, in Denmark, the Information Centre for the Scandinavian countries and the Danish Red Cross, this brochure has recently been published in Danish by the Red Cross in Copenhagen, which ensures wide distribution among schools and the young. The publication represents a first tangible result of such co-operation which we have pleasure in pointing out to our readers.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> *Røde Kors og Flygtningene, Dansk Røde Kors*, Copenhagen, 1964.

We would briefly recall that the brochure describes the action of the Red Cross on behalf of refugees in recent years, especially since 1939. It also, however, gives an account of the work accomplished by the ICRC on the eve of the First World War and which was at the origin of international aid to refugees. It was, moreover, on the initiative of the International Committee that a High Commissioner was appointed, charged with directing international aid for refugees. On February 20, 1921, Gustave Ador wrote to the President of the Council of the League of Nations :

... In begging you to be good enough to discuss at your present meeting the possible appointment of a League of Nations Commissioner for the Russian refugees, the International Committee is well aware that it is not so much a humanitarian duty which calls for the generous activities of the League of Nations as an obligation of international justice. The eight hundred thousand Russian refugees scattered throughout Europe are without legal protection or representation. All the organisations already at work would be glad to put forth fresh efforts under the general supervision of a Commissioner appointed by the League of Nations, which is the only supranational political authority capable of solving a problem which is beyond the power of exclusively humanitarian organisations . . .

This proposal was warmly received by a certain number of governments and since then the name of Nansen became a sort of symbol of international aid to refugees.

We congratulate the Danish Red Cross on the attractive presentation of the brochure and it is to be hoped that other National Societies follow suit.

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## Great Britain

### Distinction

On December 9, 1964, at the British Red Cross Society's Council Meeting, Mr. Léopold Boissier, member of the ICRC and

## **In the Red Cross World**

its former President, received the Society's highest award, the Certificate of Honour (Class I). The presentation was made in the presence of H.R.H. The Duke of Gloucester, President of the Council, and T.R.H. The Princess Royal and Princess Alexandra. The award, which is limited to twenty-five holders at any one time, is given in recognition of exceptional service to the Red Cross.

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

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## INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION

In November 1963, by unanimous decision of the General Assembly of the United Nations, it was decided to designate 1965 as the *Year of international co-operation*. Based on the theme of peace and progress through co-operation, symbolized by two joined hands surrounded by an olive branch, various events would take place. Some of these would include the following :

a commemorative session of the United Nations General Assembly ;  
issues of special stamps and the striking of a commemorative medal ;  
lectures given by leading personalities on subjects connected with international co-operation ;  
educational programmes effected by publications, television broadcasts appealing to members of the teaching profession, as well as to the specialized agencies, non-governmental organizations and private institutions throughout the world.

The Red Cross movement has also been called upon to contribute towards the success of this universal enterprise, and, in certain countries, the National Society is part of the Committee which has been formed with the participation of several governmental and non-governmental institutions. This, for example, is the case in New Zealand, where the government has also appealed to the National Red Cross to organize a series of events which, each month and in various spheres, will have the object of recalling that in a world in which distances are becoming less great, men are drawing closer to each other.

With this end in view, Mr. René Maheu, Director-General of UNESCO in Paris addressed the following message, at the beginning of the year, to all the young throughout the world :

*... International co-operation is both a necessity and an ideal.*

*It is a necessity for modern civilization, because the opportunities for development which this civilization offers can only be exploited,*

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*the problems of development which it presents can only be resolved, by organizing the communication of knowledge, the pooling of resources and the conjunction of efforts within increasingly extensive and complex systems which transcend national boundaries.*

*It is also an ideal—and by this I do not mean a dream, but a moral imperative—for men are coming to realize more and more that they are morally as well as physically interdependent. Each of us is increasingly aware that he cannot be completely happy if others are destitute or live under bondage, that he cannot be really at peace with himself if others are waging war against one another—in short, that he cannot attain his full stature as a man if injustice and want are preventing other men—all of them—from attaining that stature. I say all of them, for, once we admit in our thoughts or in our deeds that some shall be excluded from humanity's family, we lose a part of our own individual humanity.*

*Such is the twofold justification for this international co-operation, which institutions like Unesco are designed to serve, and I call upon you to dedicate yourselves to it from now onwards, with all your enthusiasm and generosity.*

*Please do not misunderstand me. I do not ask you to abandon those tasks which you are to undertake within the context of your family, your career, your country. I only ask you to remember, when carrying out these tasks, that you also belong to a larger family, a broader life and a vaster community, which is mankind. I ask you to realize that the meaning and value of your existence go beyond the immediate confines of your own personal destiny and that you are taking part in the same splendid adventure as the rest of mankind, an adventure which calls for understanding and effort from all. Lastly I ask you to regard every man you meet as a brother, that is, as your equal in dignity, with the same needs and the same hopes, regardless of his race, country, language, social status or beliefs.*

*You are growing up in a period of technological miracles. Your generation will reach the stars, but it is Man that I should like you, above all, to reach, to respect and cherish, in yourselves and in others.*

*May 1965 allow you to progress towards this goal through co-operation and concord, justice and peace!*

## THE PATHOLOGY OF CAPTIVITY

Shortly after the 4th International Medical Congress of the International Federation of Resistance Movements (of which an account was given in the October 1964 issue of the *International Review*), the Second International Medical Congress on the Pathology of Captivity was held in Cologne on November 7 and 8, 1964.

This was organized by the International Confederation of Former Prisoners of War and took place under the chairmanship of Dr. Pierre Houssa, of Brussels. Dr. Gerhard Denecke, Head Physician of the German Red Cross in the Federal Republic of Germany, represented the ICRC, in whose name he delivered an address at the opening session.

The doctors and experts who attended had come from six European countries and were all specialists in the pathology of captivity. They presented various papers and were able to discuss with all the authority conferred on them by their own experience of captivity or their observations of delayed sequels among their patients.

This international conference permitted a comprehensive inventory of the results of scientific research on the following subjects to be drawn up: the heart and blood vessels, infectious diseases (tuberculosis, tropical illnesses, epidemics), digestive system disorders, rheumatology, premature aging and causes of death, the nervous system, mental states, as well as social and medical rehabilitation.

At one of the sessions, a working group from Cologne, represented by an official of the Ministry of Health of the Federal Republic of Germany, presented a paper on the psycho-pathological effects of captivity and persecution. These subjects, which set problems which do not fall into any of the categories defined by former criteria of social service, were a transitional background to the final paper on "rehabilitation", one of the main future tasks.

It is in this context that indemnity should be paid to former prisoners for injuries sustained, whether physical, psychical or social, which cash payment cannot adequately compensate.

Dr. Houssa, who now runs the rehabilitation centre set up by the Belgian Government, described rehabilitation practice in

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Belgium. Although he is an orthopaedist, he did not remain within the bounds of his speciality for, in fact, he advocated thorough and genuine rehabilitation for former prisoners of war. "What we want", he said, "is that those who suffer from ailments, due to detention in concentration camps and the like, benefit from the therapeutics and legal advantages to which they are entitled . . ." Consideration is given with increasing humanity not only to man's health but even more to his welfare. "With all his awareness of his value amidst the events which shake his world, man is drawn closer to his neighbour and lives in hope of a great brotherhood." Hope, furthermore, is a fundamental principle in the medical science of rehabilitation. Dr. Henri Kessler described it in the following manner : "Man can live three weeks without eating, three days without drinking, three minutes without breathing, but he cannot live without hope".

During the opening session, Mr. R. Nachez, President of the International Confederation of Former Prisoners of War, recalled that the Cologne Conference should lay stress on the various aspects of the pathology of captivity, but particularly on the premature aging observed and studied in former prisoners of war. From this particular point of view these days of study already constitute a scientific event of no little importance. He considered that the Conference would no doubt assert again that the delayed sequels to captivity are not an illusion nor a specious supposition, but a fact which is becoming more firmly established than ever. "I think," he added, "that we are on the right path of progress demanded in our time and leading to the development of human knowledge and the strengthening of the bonds of fellowship among men".

Like the Bucharest Congress of the International Federation of Resistance Movements, the Cologne Conference confirmed the conclusions drawn from previous congresses on aetiology, pathology, treatment and social consequences of premature aging. It passed a resolution recalling the rights of former prisoners of war ; this was concluded as follows :

In view of the existence of a common denominator, that is to say the progressive asthenia syndrome and the premature wearing out of the organism,

the Medical Conference of Cologne :

- draws the attention of governments and public authorities to the urgency of the measures for reparation and reclassification already studied at the Conferences of The Hague and Brussels ;
- considers that provision should be made without delay in order to :
  - a) admit the irrefutable medical proof now being produced by the conferences so far organized by the International Confederation of Former Prisoners of War and the World Veterans Federation,
  - b) promote legislation including the recognition of presumed responsibility for illnesses which remain latent for an indefinite time and for which no penalty is imposed,
  - c) recognize, *inter alia*, the right to pensions before normal retiring age, together with its advantages and the adaptation of existing legislation ;
- hopes for an increase in exchanges of information and of scientific and technical research on all such medical and social problems at the international level ;
- emphasizes, as was done at previous conferences, the practical utility of health reports issued in specialized centres and of the wide dissemination to all doctors of results achieved in the field of captivity pathology.

In his closing speech, Mr. R. Nachez said that doctors, the friends and companions of prisoners of war, had revived hope in them when they were undergoing hardship and assailed by despair. It can be said that the faith they have displayed demands that we today do all we can to make the remainder of their days worth living for those who have sacrificed so much. He emphasized the necessity of bearing in mind that these sacrifices should not be in vain, that they should contribute to bringing peace to the world.

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## THE PROBLEM OF OLD AGE

*“ The increased age of the population, although one of the most certain of phenomena, one of those subject to the closest observation, lending itself better than others to forecasts, and perhaps one of the most important, is nevertheless one which goes unheeded by the man-in-the-street ”.* So writes Mr. Sauvy, in a special issue of *Revue internationale des sciences sociales* (No. 3, 1963) devoted to an over-all survey of the complex problems and various trends of social gerontology, that relatively new branch of science which already encompasses a wide field covering both the individual and the social aspects of the phenomena of old age.

Several National Societies of the Red Cross are known to be giving their attention to these problems and in order to cope with them they have undertaken schemes which practical implementation has shown to be urgently necessary. This is well demonstrated by an article we published last year on “ Wern ”, a home for the aged which is run by the British Red Cross. The French Red Cross too is concerned with geriatrics and No. 141 (1963) of its review *Vie et Bonté* is devoted to this subject.

Dr. Bourlière's article in that review is of such topical interest that we have thought it worthwhile to reproduce it in full. Dr. Bourlière, who is a Professor at the Paris Faculty of Medicine and Director at the Claude Bernard Gerontology Centre, takes a cautious and realistic view of the problems arising from senescence and longevity. Several authors have contributed articles on the aging process, the locomotory organs and dietetic functions of the elderly and the aged. In the final pages of the review, details are given on social work in France for the elderly, highlighting the various achievements of the French Red Cross in this field.

## The Struggle Against Old Age

Contemporary man, no less than his ancestors, loves to cherish illusions. Hardly a week goes by, for instance, without our being assailed by news in the press, on the radio and television of the marvellous effects of a century of science on the span of human life, at least among the populations of Europe and America who enjoy high living standards and the benefits of "scientific hygiene". Infectious diseases are vanquished, or nearly so; degenerative ailments are receding, thanks to the patient and methodical labour of armies of research workers equipped with increasingly effective resources. Man is beginning to decypher the top-secret messages transmitted by genes and to see vaguely how these affect the synthesis of even the most complex molecules. Already some of the back-room boys have hinted at a new "golden age" in which the flight of time will, so to speak, be held in check and man—thirsting after perennality—will be able to enjoy the benefits of a protracted youth for a hundred years or more.

\* \* \*

Unfortunately stark reality is quite different from these childish dreams. True, the results of biological experiments have been most encouraging, but their practical applications are extremely limited. Between the dissection of the molecule of desoxyribose in nucleic acid, and the knowledge of the human body with all its physical and mental complexity, there is a world of difference which will require to be explored for generations to come before we understand it in an anything like satisfactory degree. Even then, there is no reason for us to suppose that we can achieve a state of perpetual youth subject only to the hazards of politics and traffic.

Although cancer and even arteriosclerosis may one day be eliminated, that still would not mean that the adult organism would undergo no change for 80 to 100 years. There are not a few plants and animals in which these degenerative ailments are unknown, but they age nevertheless. Signs of old age have been demonstrated in certain macromolecules and it appears more and more probable that time leaves its mark on all structures, from

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the DNA spiral to the cells, the tissue, the organism and to the individual himself. All forms of life seem to undergo progressive alteration in their vital processes. We may hope to check this slow but sure "wear and tear"; but for the time being it seems unlikely that it can be halted entirely.

But, it might be objected, is that not being incorrigibly pessimistic? Has not the average age of the human being increased considerably during the last 150 years? And as discoveries are now made with amazing rapidity, may we not look forward to an even more spectacular prolongation of the average life expectancy in the next few decades?

Indeed, when we compare the life expectancy of the Frenchman born under the first Empire with that of man today, we observe that it has almost doubled in a century and a half. For males the average age at death in 1805 was about 35, as against 65 today. For women the life expectancy has risen from 38 years in 1805 to 71 in 1955.

But what is the exact significance of these figures? Life expectancy at birth corresponds to the average age at death of the population as a whole. That is to say that the age of those who die a few weeks after birth is added to that of those who die in childhood, after maturity and in old age and the total is divided by the number of individuals taken into consideration. However, the most outstanding trend in vital statistics following Pasteur's revolutionary discovery of the XIXth century is the reduced infant mortality rate which 150 years ago in France was approximately the same as that of India today. It is this reduction in infant mortality which has enabled a greater number of people to reach maturity and old age, but that does not mean that the maximum span of life has for all that been changed.

It is therefore much more instructive to consider the life expectancy after 50 years of age—that is to say the number of years left to us after we have reached an age which we rightly or wrongly believe to be the age at which we have attained the fullness of our physical and mental faculties. What do we then notice?

In 1805, a Frenchman of 50 could expect to live another 18.1 years. In 1955 such a man could expect 22.4 more years of life. The Frenchwoman of 50 under the first Empire could expect to

live a further 18.9 years whilst her counterpart of today expects to live 26.7 years more. In spite of the inventions of Pasteur and Fleming, and fantastic advances in surgery and hygiene, the gain is slight : a little more than 4 years for men and a little less than 8 for woman !

For the more elderly, the difference is even less marked: in the course of 150 years the life expectancy of a 60-year old man has increased by only 2.2 years and in the case of women by 5.2 years. At 70, the gain is reduced to 0.3 years for men and 2.3 years for women.

At 80 years of age and afterward there is even an inverse tendency and the old man or old woman of today may expect to live for fewer years than a predecessor in the Napoleonic age. Indeed, in 1805 the life expectancy at 80 was 6.7 years for men and 6.8 for women, as against 4 and 5.9 years respectively in 1955. It therefore looks as if the elderly people of former times, a rare few who had during their lifetime withstood the numerous hazards of a world without asepsis, vaccins and antibiotics, had much more stamina than their descendents of today who reach the same age in greater numbers, but with less vitality.

All this must give grounds for modesty on our part. Biologists and doctors, psychologists and sociologists are only at the beginning of a long struggle against the various "degenerative" ailments which are still the major cause of death among the elderly. The causes of these ailments are complex, closely linked to the fundamental process of senility and it will no doubt require a great deal of time, imagination and money before the achievement of effective preventive and curative therapy.

\* \* \*

There is another observation which should encourage devotees of science fiction to caution. The impression is gaining ground nowadays that as progress is made in eliminating illnesses which have plagued mankind for thousands of years, others arise to take their place. These are sometimes referred to as "illnesses of civilization".

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Throughout the hundreds of millennia of man's existence, the pattern of his life changed remarkably little. From the time of *Zinjanthropus* of Olduvai (about 1,750,000 years ago) to the hunters of the Paleolithic period who lived no more than 15,000 years ago in what today is France, the way of life had changed relatively little. Whether they lived in warm countries or in the Tundra regions towards the poles, these collector-hunters regulated their lives, their migrations and all their daily activities according to the annual cycle of wild plant and animal life on which they relied for their subsistence. Their very numbers depended in the last resort on the wealth of berries, grains, roots and game which abounded in the regions where they lived. In this struggle for existence, there was no place for the weak in mind or body. Whilst this law of the jungle prevailed, humanity slowly but surely evolved from the pre-human stage to that of "homo sapiens". Under the pressure of natural selection for hundreds of millennia the weak were pitilessly weeded out, ensuring the survival of the fittest.

It was only about 12,000 years ago, somewhere in the "fertile crescent" of the Near East, that the great neolithic revolution began. Suddenly (on the geological time-scale) man's relationship to his environment underwent a change; nomadism gave way to settlement, husbandry of crops and animals replaced reliance on wild plants and game, seasonal variations in food resources tended to diminish, whilst surpluses, leisure and social distinctions began to make an appearance. This new way of life gradually spread to almost the whole world and to this day its survival need not be sought in darkest Africa, in the Indies or the Andes. It is present on our doorstep, in the spirit and customs of the peasantry of every country.

Finally, with the industrial and demographic revolution of the 19th Century, a third type of environment came into being and to which man is still adapting himself; the great industrial urbanism with its mass concentration, its specialization of labour, its intense competition, its high tension rhythm, its new values, its physical and moral pollution, its collective influences, etc. In brief, an enormous ants' nest in which individuals still have their own personalities and in which, for that very reason, problems of

physical and mental adaptation continually occur, from the cradle to the grave. This revolution is going on before our eyes, without our really being aware of it, but it is nonetheless profoundly changing man morphologically, physiologically, psychologically and pathologically. In childhood, for instance, biological development has accelerated rapidly in the short space of a few decades. A century ago, boys in France and England continued to grow until the age of about 26 : today growth stops at 18 or 19. Girls used to have their first menstruation towards 16 to 17 years of age, whereas nowadays it frequently occurs at 12 years and often even sooner. In a hundred years, therefore, the duration of physical growth has been shortened by about twenty-five percent, without our having any proof that intellectual maturity has been similarly accelerated.

Among adult city dwellers of today, a plentiful and rich diet is accompanied by a considerable reduction in physical exertion, resulting in a tendency for the population as a whole to become progressively fatter, at least until the age of fifty. Compulsion to work at a rapid pace, bustle and noise, constant worry and nervous tension, frequently give rise to abnormal fatigue, sleeplessness, irritability and anxiety. Specialization to a more intensive degree, earlier and earlier in life, is producing diminished interest in extra-professional matters, making more difficult the exercise of hobbies, those regulators of equilibrium and excellent source of intellectual relaxation. Added to all this are the noxious effects of increasing atmospheric and water pollution, widespread and contagious addiction (e.g. to tobacco and alcohol), indulgence in the use of certain drugs, etc.

The appearance of a completely new pathogeny under such circumstances is not surprising. Accelerated growth, it seems, is related to the appearance at an increasingly early age of certain degenerative ailments which in former times manifested their symptoms much later in life. For example, autopsies carried out on strapping young men in their early twenties killed in the Korean war revealed coronary disorders in 77 per cent of them. The incessant difficulties of adaptation to family, professional or social environment, so prevalent in our modern urban society, give rise to a whole series of causes of psychological disequilibrium and

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psychosomatic disorder, ranging from the typical hypertension of the native in a squalid shanty-town, uprooted from tribal life, to the mental troubles among New-Yorkers, described in the *Midtown Survey*. The air in our towns is polluted with tons of gas and toxic substances poured into it each day and the long term effects of this are discreetly passed over in silence. The same applies with respect to all the products—insecticides, herbicides, anti-rust compounds and dyestuffs—which today impregnate most of our food. As for traffic accidents, everyone knows that they constitute one of the major causes of death among adults.

Instead of deluding ourselves with visions of prolonging life to 150 years, I believe we must seriously consider the possibility of our losing on the one hand (through degenerative ailments and mental disorders) what we have gained on the other (decline of infectious diseases) since the beginning of the era initiated by Pasteur. In any case, it is now up to the biologists, psychologists and sociologists to combine their efforts to examine whether certain developments in our modern industrial society are not contrary to nature. For any single branch of science to attempt such a study of this vast problem would be futile. Only an all-out programme involving the sciences concerned would enable the achievement of results and permit us to lay the foundations of truly satisfactory hygiene for modern man.

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## PROBLEMS OF CHILD AND YOUTH WELFARE

*On the initiative of the Executive Board of the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF), a conference was held at Bellagio, Italy, in April 1964. The aim of those taking part—pediatricians, economists, leaders of social service organizations, representatives of international institutions—was to study ways and means of including the needs of children and youths in the economic and social planning of developing countries.*

*This was one of a number of measures decided on by the Board to promote appropriate consideration of children and youth in national development programmes. Established late in 1946 as an agency of emergency relief to children in war-ravaged countries, UNICEF was instructed, in 1950, by the United Nations General Assembly to give assistance in relation to the long-range problems of children in the developing countries. In the execution of this task it became clear that it was not sufficient to protect the child from death or illness, but that it was advisable also to assist countries "to prepare him for life." For many years, the Fund has been trying to assist projects that countries would develop and carry on from their own resources, rather than special projects introduced from the outside. The increasing attention to planning in nearly all developing countries means that the kinds of projects aided will only be fully effective as they become part of each country's own development effort.*

*The following were some of the conclusions which were adopted by the Bellagio meeting and recently published. They show a similar concern with certain matters as was expressed during the World Conference of Educators, held in Lausanne in 1963, under the auspices of the Red Cross on the occasion of its centenary.*

### Planning approaches

5. Whatever the degree of development of the country, periodic and systematic assessments of the situation of children and youth

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are urged, in order to determine the most important problems, to evaluate the results of previous actions, and to select logical points on which to concentrate.

6. Planning for the interests of children and youth would be aided by the expression and stimulation of public awareness through a national group composed of governmental as well as non-governmental leaders, who would serve to highlight the needs of children and youth and help in the formulation of a national policy for them. A committee of the legislative body should be formed to sustain governmental interest in this field. The organization of planning for the needs of children and youth should be co-ordinated at an inter-ministerial level and in the planning commission (or other corresponding central planning mechanism). Other means, more appropriate to the socio-economic structures of various countries, might be used to achieve the same objectives.

7. The final goals of a policy for children and youth can often best be expressed in terms of social values rather than in quantitative terms. It is, therefore, sometimes necessary to quantify means rather than ends. The planner should be supplied with as much quantitative data as possible, however preliminary and approximate they may be. Insufficient effort has thus far been devoted to locating and preparing relevant data in the quantitative terms most useful to planners. Efforts to remedy this situation should be encouraged. Education and vocational training have been recognized as investments. Similar recognition should be accorded to health, nutrition, and social welfare services.

8. Insufficient quantitative data need not preclude a programme of action. Among the guiding criteria for such action may be : the correction of flagrant distortions or inequities, such as imbalances in the development of the educational system or unusually high rates of nutrition disorders in certain geographical areas within the country ; the removal of bottle-necks and preparation required for programmes in future development plans ; feasibility rather than optimisation when few choices are possible ; comparison with standards in other countries of similar economic position ; the choice of simpler rather than more complex programmes ;

the economy, or better returns, to be obtained from developing complementary services ; the choice of low-cost programmes based on local resources which would otherwise not be used. Where the limitation of resources requires partial goals in social sectors, priority should be given to the needs of children and youth.

**Main needs of children and youth to be considered  
by the planner**

9. Indirect as well as direct means of improving the situation of children and youth should be considered. Indirect means of great importance can include the use of fiscal policy, redistribution of income, price policy directed to foods, subsidized family housing, and other economic measures designed to help children within their families, particularly those in lower-income groups.

10. Many countries are concerned with the rapid growth of their population in comparison with their rate of economic growth. Programmes, addressed to the survival and well-being of infants and young children and the improvement of family hygiene and education in family life generally, may be expected to encourage family planning.

*Health, and food and nutrition*

11. The leading sources of child mortality and morbidity are malnutrition, infectious diseases, and poor sanitation. The plan should give emphasis to well co-ordinated preventive services, and the progressive extension of maternal and child health services in the framework of basic health services.

12. The problem of food and nutrition is most important in the pre-school age when the requirement of protein is high, and when the damage done by malnutrition and under-nutrition can be irreversible. Special attention should be given to the production of protein-rich foods and also to ensuring their availability to children and youth. There should be co-ordination of food planning policy and of nutritional programmes ; this co-ordination could be secured either within the planning commission or at a high inter-

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ministerial level. At least health, agriculture, and education should be represented in such a policy-making body. Similarly, the training of professional personnel in these fields should include nutritional orientation. There is also a need for wide-spread diffusion of nutrition education in the population at large through home economics, community development, social work, agricultural extension and multi-purpose workers at the village and local community levels.

### *Education and vocational training*

13. One of the functions of education is to prepare the child for a constructive life. A long-term educational development plan should take account of the goals of the general development plan, and in particular of those goals relating to population policy, civic education, manpower needs, the preparation of managerial and supervisory personnel, and nutrition and health education. Educational development plans should try to meet the needs of children and youth who have not had any schooling or who have dropped out before completing it ; literacy and other programmes outside schools for young people and adults should be extended. Pre-vocational and vocational training, including apprenticeship, should also be expanded through the use of resources in the public and industrial sectors. The planning and development of networks of both vocational training and educational facilities should be closely integrated, and related to the occupational opportunities for young people.

### *Urban and rural needs*

14. Rapid industrialization, unless well planned, may lead to the creation of slum conditions which adversely affect the welfare of children and youth. To deal with this problem there should be co-ordinated action of health, sanitation, social welfare services, education, and training ; low-cost food for infants and pre-school children ; and low-cost housing and recreation areas.

15. A similar co-ordination is required in the case of rural children, including special attention to the provision of wholesome drinking water and proper environmental sanitation.

*Social welfare services*

16. Social welfare services for children and youth should not be exclusively provided for vulnerable groups. Social welfare services should become available to all children and youth, and their objectives should include improving the adaptation of the family to changing social conditions and social demands. Emphasis should thus be given to such measures as those designed to strengthen family life, to educate parents in child rearing and to help working mothers. Specific attention should be paid to prevention of emotional as well as physical deprivation. As resources permit, provision should be made to meet the needs of major vulnerable groups such as abandoned, neglected, illegitimate, delinquent, and handicapped children. In general, priority should be given to preventive rather than to remedial services, and to rehabilitation rather than to palliative assistance.

*Youth employment*

17. Many countries foresee a continuation of their grave problems of unemployment and under-employment of youth, even after their prospective plans have been completed, despite all measures currently being undertaken and planned for the future. It would be important to review whatever experience is available as a result of the attempts by various countries to cope with this problem, and to initiate further study and pilot projects.

**Training and research**

18. Training possibilities should be expanded as a priority for all those concerned with the welfare of children and youth, with particular attention to the preparation of auxiliary workers, and on-the-job training.

19. There is need for more research, especially applied research, in several fields bearing directly on aspects of planning concerning children and youth. Research programmes, both inside and outside the family of the United Nations, could contribute greatly to

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resolving some of the pressing problems of services and planning related to children and youth.

### *Information for planners and specialists in the problems of children and youth*

20. Those to be concerned with the planning of the social aspects of development, whether at the level of the general plan or in ministries, should be given basic knowledge of the specific problems facing children and youth in the developing countries. There is a parallel need for those in ministries who are to be concerned with the planning aspects of services bearing on children and youth, to be given some basic knowledge of planning methods. For both these purposes, use may be made of existing training institutions and programmes, both inside and outside the United Nations family.

### **International action**

21. The needs of the children and youth of the developing countries are such that external assistance continues to be required on a much larger scale than at present. All sources of aid, bilateral as well as international, are encouraged by the conference to consider how their programmes might take fuller account of the needs of children and youth.

23. It is recommended that UNICEF, in co-operation with the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, and with the specialized agencies concerned, should explore the possibility of a thoroughly prepared World Conference on the place of children and youth in economic and social development. It is similarly recommended that UNICEF should explore, together with UNESCO and the other international agencies concerned, all possible measures to promote international understanding among children and youth.

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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 questions 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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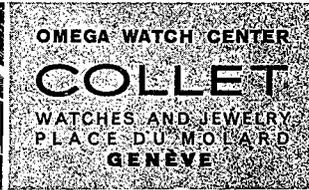
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- ALBANIA — Albanian Red Cross, 35, Rruga Barrikadavet, *Tirana*.
- ALGERIA — Central Committee of the Algerian Red Crescent Society, 8 bis, rue Henry-Dunant, *Algiers*.
- ARGENTINE — Argentine Red Cross, H. Yriogoyen 2068, *Buenos Aires*.
- AUSTRALIA — Australian Red Cross, 122-128 Flinders Street, *Melbourne, C. 1*.
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- BELGIUM — Belgian Red Cross, 98, Chaussée de Vleurgat, *Brussels 5*.
- BOLIVIA — Bolivian Red Cross, 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, Red Cross Building, *Rangoon*.
- BURUNDI — Red Cross Society of Burundi, P.O. Box 1037, *Usumbura*.
- CAMBODIA — Cambodian Red Cross, 17 R Ruelle Preak Bat Trasak Paem, P.O.B. 94, *Pnom-Penh*.
- CAMEROON — Central Committee of the Cameroon Red Cross Society, rue Henry-Dunant, P.O.B. 631, *Yaoundé*.
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- CHILE — Chilean Red Cross, Avenida Santa Maria 0150, Casilla 246 V., *Santiago de Chile*.
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- CONGO — Red Cross of the Congo, 24, Avenue Valcke, P.O. Box 1712, *Léopoldville*.
- 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 I*.
- DAHOMEY — Red Cross Society of Dahomey, P.O. Box 1, *Porto-Novo*.
- DENMARK — Danish Red Cross, Platanvej 22, *Copenhagen V*.
- DOMINICAN REPUBLIC — Dominican Red Cross, Calle Galvan 24, Apartado 1293 *San Domingo*.
- ECUADOR — Ecuadorean Red Cross, Avenida Colombia y Elizalde 118, *Quito*.
- ETHIOPIA — Ethiopian Red Cross, Red Cross Road No. 1, P.O. Box 195, *Addis Ababa*.
- FINLAND — Finnish Red Cross, Tehtaankatu I A, *Helsinki*.
- FRANCE — French Red Cross, 17, rue Quentin-Bauchart, *Paris (8<sup>e</sup>)*.
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- GHANA — Ghana Red Cross, P.O. Box 835, *Accra*.
- GREAT BRITAIN — British Red Cross, 14 Grosvenor Crescent, *London, S.W.1*.
- GREECE — Hellenic Red Cross, rue Lycavittou 1, *Athens 135*.
- GUATEMALA — Guatemalan Red Cross, 3.<sup>a</sup> Calle 8-40 zona 1, *Guatemala C.A.*
- HAITI — Haiti Red Cross, rue Férou, *Port-au-Prince*.
- HONDURAS — Honduran Red Cross, Calle Henry Dunant 516, *Tegucigalpa*.
- HUNGARY — Hungarian Red Cross, Arany Janos utca 31, *Budapest V*.
- ICELAND — Icelandic Red Cross, Ølduggøtu 4, *Reykjavik*, Post Box 872.
- INDIA — Indian Red Cross, 1 Red Cross Road, *New Delhi 1*.
- INDONESIA — Indonesian Red Cross, Tanah Abang Barat 66, P.O. Box 2009, *Djakarta*.
- IRAN — Iranian Red Lion and Sun Society, Avenue Ark, *Teheran*.
- IRAQ — Iraqi Red Crescent, Al-Mansour, *Baghdad*.
- IRELAND — Irish Red Cross, 25 Westland Row, *Dublin*.
- ITALY — Italian Red Cross, 12, via Toscana, *Rome*.
- IVORY COAST—Ivory Coast Red Cross Society, B.P. 1244, *Abidjan*.
- JAMAICA — Jamaica Red Cross Society, 76 Arnold Road, *Kingston 5*.
- JAPAN — Japanese Red Cross, 5 Shiba Park, Minato-Ku, *Tokyo*.
- JORDAN — Jordan Red Crescent, P.O. Box 1337, *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, 32-3 Ka Nam San-Dong, *Seoul*.

## ADDRESSES OF CENTRAL COMMITTEES

- LAOS — Laotian Red Cross, *Vientiane*.
- LEBANON — Lebanese Red Cross, rue Général Spears, *Beirut*.
- LIBERIA — Liberian National Red Cross, Camp Johnson Road, *Monrovia*.
- LIBYA — Libyan Red Crescent, Berka Omar Mukhtar Street, P.O. Box 541, *Benghazi*.
- LIECHTENSTEIN — Liechtenstein Red Cross, *Vaduz*.
- LUXEMBURG — Luxemburg Red Cross, Parc de la Ville, *Luxemburg*.
- MADAGASCAR — Red Cross Society of Madagascar, rue Clemenceau, P.O. Box 1168, *Tananarive*.
- MALAYA — Red Cross Society of the Federation of Malaya, Jalan Belfield 519, *Kuala Lumpur*
- MEXICO — Mexican Red Cross, Sinaloa 20, 4<sup>o</sup> piso, *Mexico 7, D.F.*
- MONACO — Red Cross of Monaco, 27, Boul. de Suisse, *Monte-Carlo*.
- MONGOLIA — Red Cross Society of the Mongolian People's Republic, Central Post Office, Post Box 537, *Ulan-Bator*.
- MOROCCO — Moroccan Red Crescent, rue Calmette, *Rabat*.
- NEPAL — Nepal Red Cross Society, Tripureswore, P.B. 217, *Kathmandu*.
- 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 — Nigerian Red Cross Society, 2 Makoko Road, Yaba, P.O. Box 764, *Lagos*.
- NORWAY — Norwegian Red Cross, Parkveien 33b, *Oslo*.
- PAKISTAN — Pakistan Red Cross, Frere Street, *Karachi 4*.
- PANAMA — Panamanian Red Cross, Apartado 668, *Panama*.
- PARAGUAY — Paraguayan Red Cross, calle André Barbero y Artigas 33, *Asunción*.
- PERU — Peruvian Red Cross, Tarapaca 881, *Lima*.
- PHILIPPINES — Philippine National Red Cross, 860 United Nations Avenue, P.O.B. 280, *Manila*.
- POLAND — Polish Red Cross, Mokotowska 14, *Warsaw*.
- PORTUGAL — Portuguese Red Cross, General Secretaryship, Jardim 9 de Abril, 1 a 5, *Lisbon 3*.
- RUMANIA — Red Cross of the Rumanian People's Republic, 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*.
- SAUDI ARABIA — Saudi Arabian Red Crescent, *Riyadh*.
- SENEGAL — Senegalese Red Cross Society, P.O.B. 299, *Dakar*.
- SIERRA LEONE — Sierra Leone Red Cross Society, 6 Liverpool Street, P.O.B. 427, *Freetown*.
- SOUTH AFRICA — South African Red Cross, 14 Holland Street, P.O.B. 8726, *Johannesburg*.
- SPAIN — Spanish Red Cross, Eduardo Dato 16, *Madrid, 10*.
- SUDAN — Sudanese Red Crescent, P.O. Box 235, *Khartoum*.
- SWEDEN — Swedish Red Cross, Artillerigatan 6, *Stockholm 14*.
- SWITZERLAND — Swiss Red Cross, Taubenstrasse 8, *Berne*.
- SYRIA — Syrian Red Crescent, 13, rue Abi-Ala-Almaari, *Damascus*.
- TANZANIA — Tanzania Red Cross Society, Upanga Road, P.O.B. 1133, *Dar es Salaam*.
- THAILAND — Thai Red Cross Society, King Chulalongkorn Memorial Hospital, *Bangkok*.
- TOGO — Togolese Red Cross Society, Avenue des Alliés 19, P.O. Box 655, *Lomé*.
- TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO — Trinidad and Tobago Red Cross Society, 48 Pembroke Street, P.O. Box 357, *Port of Spain*.
- TUNISIA — Tunisian Red Crescent, 19, rue d'Angleterre, *Tunis*.
- TURKEY — Turkish Red Crescent, Yenisehir, *Ankara*.
- UNITED ARAB REPUBLIC — Red Crescent Society of the United Arab Republic, 34, rue Ramses, *Cairo*.
- UPPER VOLTA — Upper Volta Red Cross, P.O.B. 340, *Ouagadougou*.
- URUGUAY — Uruguayan Red Cross, Avenida 8 de Octubre, 2990, *Montevideo*.
- U.S.A. — American National Red Cross, 17th and D Streets, N.W., *Washington 6, D.C.*
- U.S.S.R. — Alliance of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, Kouznetsky Most 18/7, *Moscow k.31*.
- VENEZUELA — Venezuelan Red Cross, Avenida Andrés Bello No. 4, Apart. 3185, *Caracas*.
- VIET NAM (Democratic Republic) — Red Cross of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, 68, rue Bà-Trièz, *Hanoi*.
- VIET NAM (Republic) — Red Cross of the Republic of Viet Nam, 201, duong Hồng-Thập-Tu, No. 201, *Saigon*.
- YUGOSLAVIA — Yugoslav Red Cross, Simina ulica broj 19, *Belgrade*.