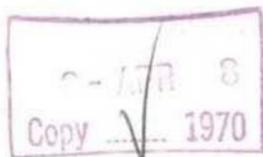


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INTER ARMA CARITAS

GENEVA

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS
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**FRENCH EDITION
OF THE REVIEW**

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**SUPPLEMENTS
TO THE REVIEW**

SPANISH

XXI Conferencia Internacional de la Cruz Roja (Discurso pronunciado en la sesión inaugural por el Presidente del Comité Internacional de la Cruz Roja) — La obra de asistencia de las Sociedades Nacionales en América Central (durante el conflicto Honduras/El Salvador) — Cuarta Reunión Regional de Cruces Rojas en México — Día Mundial de la Cruz Roja.

GERMAN

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AID TO THE VICTIMS OF THE CIVIL WAR IN NIGERIA

by Jacques Freymond

With the kind permission of Preuves (Paris, 1st quarter 1970), we give below extracts of an article which summarizes the ICRC's work for the benefit of the victims of the conflict in Nigeria from July 1967 to the last months of 1969.

The fighting ceased in January 1970 in the region which made an abortive attempt at secession. In view of the extent of distress, the ICRC at once did all it could to provide relief (Ed.).

... Why and how did the International Committee of the Red Cross commit itself? The reasons for its commitment were clearly expressed by the Delegate-General of the ICRC for Africa, even before the break was complete between the government of Nigeria and the leaders of the Eastern province. Concluding a report giving an account, at the end of 1966, of the disturbances by which Nigeria had been torn during the year, Mr. Georges Hoffmann—under the title “Disaster relief in case of man-made disaster”—defined the task he wanted the ICRC to undertake: “A holocaust is taking place; there are victims, and care must be given to those who are not dead. As in the case of natural disasters, there must be teams of surgeons, supplies of surgical equipment, medical supplies, food-stuffs and blankets, and there must be means of transport, particularly ambulances and vans”. In short, it was necessary to set up in Geneva, in agreement with the League of Red Cross Societies, an organization which would make it possible to confront those “man-made disasters” similar to the one which the League had already created in Nigeria to deal with natural disasters.

Where were those surgeons and that first-aid to be sent? The situation was too confused and the tensions tormenting the land too numerous for it to be possible at that stage to lay down the lines of action or decide to which zones the medical teams should be allotted.

In the Spring of 1967, the threat of secession became more distinct and with it that of a civil war. Mr. Hoffmann was sent back to Nigeria to make the necessary arrangements with the parties to a possible conflict. For him, as for the members of the Committee, it was a matter of duty. The Nigerians with whom he had to deal, with whom he had so often spoken in past years about the Geneva Conventions and the steps to be taken in the event of civil strife, would, he recalls, have failed to understand if, at the very moment when a serious crisis was emerging, the ICRC were to shirk its duty. The Committee was bound to offer its services as Article 3 of the Conventions enabled it to do.

Thus the ICRC Delegate-General was on the spot at the beginning of July when the war broke out. He was able to obtain in time from the head of the Federal Military Government and from Colonel Ojukwu the assurance that the Geneva Conventions would be applied. He transmitted the information necessary for the despatch, at the outset of the hostilities, of consignments of medical supplies and standard outfits to both parties, and for the mobilization, through the Swiss Red Cross, of two surgical teams.

The decision, as can be seen, was rapid, and its implementation was immediate. We might mention that at the beginning of that same summer of 1967, the ICRC, which has been active for some years in the south of the Arabian peninsula, had to intervene, from one day to another, in the conflict in the Middle East.

But very rapidly the situation in Nigeria became more complicated. The conditions under which the war was taking place, the size of the territory, and the distances to be covered, raised difficult logistical problems. The ICRC, we would emphasize, was not content with simply sending delegates to visit prisoners of war and to satisfy themselves as to the effective application of the Geneva Conventions, a mission which, although traditional, is nevertheless a delicate one at the beginning of a conflict in which the officering of troops leaves much to be desired. From the outset it undertook direct responsibility for care and aid to the wounded,

reinforcing by the despatch of surgical teams the means available to the Nigerian Red Cross. Those teams had to have supplies of dressings, instruments, medical stores and medicines.

Although it was always possible to find the funds necessary for financing the operation ¹, and to recruit the emergency medical teams without delay, there were difficulties in routing men and supplies. Several attempts had to be made. How could they be got across the lines? And how could one communicate with a surgical team or with a delegate in the secessionist zone (Biafra)? It was necessary to use aircraft; this involved expenditure of 80,000 Swiss francs a week and, furthermore, raised a political problem, for the Federal Military Government intended to check the cargo, as it was entitled to do under Article 23 of the IVth Convention, and it only allowed direct flight between Lagos and Port Harcourt ², whereas the Biafran government required an intermediate landing on the island of Fernando Po. Finally, the obstacles were removed, and the first ICRC aircraft set down at Port Harcourt on 18 November three surgeons, one anaesthetist and seven tons of medical supplies. The chain of relief was thus established, as were radio communications between Geneva and the secessionist zone.

But for how long? By dragging on, the war changed the size and nature of the problems to be solved on either side of the front. As the Nigerian troops tightened the blockade, the number of displaced persons rose. How many were there? To know that, it would be necessary to be informed of their movements after their flight from the towns and villages. One was thus reduced to depending on estimates based on information which was often contradictory and came from the most varied sources.

But whatever the number of victims or the size of the problem, the ICRC had no longer any choice. It was too deeply committed to back out. Its delegates, struggling with problems of ever increasing difficulty, urged it to widen its action and reinforce the resources committed. UNICEF (the International Children's Fund) offered its help, making available supplies of food and medicine which had to be distributed to the civilian population. The World Council of

¹ By 1 September 1967, the ICRC had already allotted nearly 300,000 Swiss francs.

² Still in the hands of the secessionist forces.

Churches announced that it was ready to supply medical teams and assistance, and the ICRC accepted those offers of co-operation, thus engaging in a relief operation which was to assume vast proportions.

Did it realize the adventure on which it was embarking? It cannot be said that it did. The position in Nigeria was too unstable, and the news too fragmentary, for the duration of the conflict or its outcome to be foreseen in Geneva—or in Paris, London or Washington. One was therefore forced to feel one's way and adapt oneself to the situation, at the risk of getting one's fingers burnt. That is nothing new in the tradition of the ICRC which, in a century of experience, has learnt to adopt the Napoleonic maxim: start, then see what happens. For a humanitarian institution it is sometimes a duty not to look too far ahead.

As it had been decided to proceed with the task, it was important to secure the bases for it, and in particular to establish clearly with the Lagos government the conditions under which the relief supplies for the civilian population in the secessionist zone could be routed through the blockade. Article 23 of the IVth Convention is quite definite on that point: it lays on the blockading Power an obligation to allow the sending of relief supplies to certain duly defined categories of civilians. But, on the other hand, it gives that Power the right to lay down the technical conditions for that operation—provided, of course, that those technical conditions are not devised in such a way as to jeopardize free access to the territory.

The ICRC therefore negotiated with the Federal Military Government a two-fold agreement, in order to obtain, on the one hand, acceptance of the principle of aid in the form of foodstuffs (milk and vitamins) for children on both sides of the front, and, on the other hand, permission to install an ICRC operational base on neutral territory at Santa Isabel (Equatorial Guinea), where the aircraft were to be checked by a Federal agent before taking off for the secessionist territory. But the affirmative reply of Lagos did not solve the problem; for, as the authorities in that territory refused to agree to Federal checking, the Federal Military Government did not grant permission to fly.

The question then arose again: would it be necessary to abandon the secessionist zone? The Committee could not resolve to do so.

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While temporarily withdrawing its surgical team, it left its delegate on the spot, in the hope that new negotiations would lead to a more positive result. That is what did in fact happen. At the beginning of April 1968, it was possible for flights to begin. The Nigerian government gave the ICRC permission to fly at its own risk and peril¹. Flights, therefore, were allowed on sufferance, and the risks were real, for the ICRC aircraft flew by night like those sent by other humanitarian organisations, but also like those conveying arms, and it was not always possible to identify which was which. Even though the F.M.G. (Federal Military Government) did not at that time have any night-fighters, its anti-aircraft defences were active. The approach to the runway was difficult, particularly during the rainy season. On 30 June, a Super-Constellation crashed on landing. The four members of the crew were killed.

But what was even more serious was that as the fighting became more intense the number of the wounded increased, and so, to a still greater extent, did that of the displaced persons. The Nigerian Red Cross, the efficiency of which was praised by all, could no longer cope with the task. It sent out an appeal to world opinion and soon received the support of the ICRC which declared its intention to co-ordinate relief activities in agreement with the National Society. That task of co-ordination was entrusted to it in July by the Federal Military Government.

On the other side of the front, the situation took a still more drastic turn with the fall of Port Harcourt. By the end of April, the ICRC delegate wrote, there were 500,000 refugees in 600 camps. The capture of Port Harcourt sent over 100,000 more out on the roads and into the bush. With the blockade tightening at the time of the rainy season, famine became a reality from one week to another. A few flights a month were not going to keep alive one to two million people. It was necessary to organize an air-lift, and to do so in the shortest possible time.

¹ " . . . if the International Committee of the Red Cross persists in sending supplies by air at their own risk to the rebel-held areas, they may do so. Our Consul in Santa Isabel will be instructed not to examine the Red Cross boxes, in which case the ICRC would be operating entirely on their own. The Federal Military Government assures the ICRC that all possible precautions will be taken to avoid incidents. However, the ICRC is required to issue a statement absolving the Federal Military Government from all responsibility in this regard."

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But how could everything be done in time? It was necessary to find funds, competent men, and second-hand air-worthy aircraft; to set up a transport organization which would deliver relief supplies to the operational bases at Lagos and Santa Isabel; to establish storage centres; to organize a fleet of lorries and cars; to co-ordinate the recruiting of the teams sent by the National Societies of the Red Cross and voluntary agencies; to negotiate with the Spanish government the use of Santa Isabel air-field; to pursue unflinchingly with the Federal Military Government and with the government of the secessionist area discussion of the problems of getting through the blockade, studying each of the proposed solutions: river or land corridor, daylight flights, and the use of an airfield exclusively for relief supplies. All that had to be done under pressure from an international public opinion which was impatient of any delay, in an atmosphere of high feeling fed by daily descriptions of the dramatic situation of famished populations moving from place to place according to the ceaseless fluctuations of the fighting.

That was the task undertaken at the end of July 1968 by Ambassador August Lindt, made available to the ICRC by the Swiss government so that he might take up the post of Commissioner-General "with full authority to act as the Committee's representative to governments and governmental or non-governmental institutions" and to organize and lead what some were later to call a "humanitarian expeditionary corps". It was under his direction and impulsion that the operation developed, that the various services became organized, and that relief supplies were brought to the populations on both sides of the front. From September to the end of November, nearly 4,500 tons were sent to the secessionist region alone. That was itself an achievement. More had to be done—but how?

Difficulties kept piling-up. Those connected with finance were at the time so great that the Committee again wondered whether it was going to be able to carry on the task. The staff which had to be recruited hurriedly was by no means always satisfactory. While the teams in the field were working competently and enthusiastically, in spite of difficulties and risks, those in the rear of this expeditionary corps laid themselves open to criticism which was

often justified. The volunteers often behaved like amateurs and dilettantes. "You are lacking in professional experts" wrote one of the heads of the delegation at Lagos at the end of 1968; "this system of recruiting volunteers which, I agree, is necessary, has rather serious drawbacks, in that you will always find adventurers who are worth nothing professionally, and idealists who are certainly worth something as far as their intentions are concerned, but who from the practical point of view are not up to the job". Gradually efforts were made in Geneva and Lagos to forge a more effective instrument. Thanks to the support of the National Red Cross Societies, the voluntary agencies, and governments, it was possible to improve the selection of key-personnel. Arrangements were also made to establish closer relations with the Nigerian Red Cross and to pave the way for withdrawal by the ICRC. The Relief Centre, in which Nigerians held executive positions, was systematically reinforced to that end as from October 1968, and the proportion of "expatriates" was reduced.

To the financial and technical problems inherent in running a large undertaking were added others of a political nature. The Federal Military Government was finding it increasingly difficult to tolerate the night flights. It had not accepted the failure of the negotiations in the summer and autumn of 1968 with a view to starting daylight flights. It considered that the ICRC had forced its hand and was no longer neutral. The sudden stiffening of the resistance of the secessionist zone which had been thought to be at its last gasp resulted in an appreciable intensification of actions aimed at destroying Uli airfield and cutting-off the night flights in that direction.

It was in these circumstances that a new crisis arose. The government of Equatorial Guinea, which had just attained independence, suddenly forbade the continuation of flights in the direction of the secessionist zone from the Santa Isabel base. It took weeks of negotiations to induce it to adopt a more flexible position, and subsequently reverse its decision. The warning was sufficiently serious to cause the ICRC to seek an alternative operational base, which it was able to obtain at the end of January 1969 from the government of Dahomey. On 1 February, the Red Cross aircraft were able to take off from Cotonou, and on the 12th

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the flights resumed from Santa Isabel. The crisis ended with an appreciable strengthening of the relief air-lift.

It was high time, for the food situation had grown worse in the secessionist zone, where the ICRC teams were becoming impatient or discouraged. Moreover, the new interruption in aid to the population had been a very serious blow to ICRC prestige.

... But the resumption of the night flights and the rapid intensification of the results of the relief operation, thanks to the existence of two operational bases, gave renewed courage and, to some extent, confidence. At the meeting on 17 February 1969, the representatives of the larger Red Cross Societies gave their consent to a six-month plan of action, the implementation of which was to be kept under review by an advisory committee with which the League of Red Cross Societies and representatives of the National Societies were associated.

The plan, although it set targets which were below the requirements of the civilian populations, nevertheless appeared ambitious. It had to provide aid, if possible, to nearly three million persons on both sides of the front; this meant distributing some 10,000 tons of food and medical supplies a month, of which 4,000 went to the secessionist zone and 6,000 to the territory controlled by the Federal Military Government. That represented a total amount for the six months of some 330 million Swiss francs, of which 84 million was in cash.

Those targets were reached. Thanks to the support of governments, in particular of the American government, and to the support of UNICEF which from the outset supplied the major part of the relief supplies, and that of the voluntary agencies and of the National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, the ICRC was able to come to the help of an ever-increasing number of persons (2.6 million at the end of May, of which 1.6 in the secessionist zone). On the Nigerian side, where 5,000 tons were distributed monthly, it proved possible to build-up a reserve of nearly 40,000 tons for use in an emergency. The population in the secessionist zone received 2,000 tons in March, 5,000 in April, and 4,000 in May. A cabled report from the Commissioner-General at the beginning of May summed-up the results achieved:

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“ Very satisfactory results of our air-lift—5,000 tons transported April as against 2,000 average previous months—have enabled us increase secessionist zone distribution two ways: 1) by increasing each of the individual rations to make-up for growing scarcity carbo-hydrates; 2) by widening circle beneficiaries which amounted beginning April to some 960,000 and reached some 1,600,000 in week 20.4 to 26.4 divided as follows:

- 510 distribution centres distributed 3 meals a week to 830,000 persons;
- 49 kwashiorkor centres fed completely 4,600 children;
- 490,000 refugees in 745 camps received three meals a week;
- 250,000 refugees not in camps received relief;
- ICRC feeds all civilian and military patients in hospital in Biafra, numbering 20,000 in 44 establishments.

Nigerian side number beneficiaries action remains constant about one million. Teams in regions near front report increase in persons helped. On other hand in certain regions where ICRC has been working for some months (e.g. Enugu) improvement food situation allows change to more selective distribution entailing decrease number beneficiaries ” (4.5.1969).

The situation at the end of June 1969 was as follows: 52,000 tons of relief supplies distributed in the territory controlled by the Federal Military Government since July 1967; 20,000 tons distributed in the secessionist area since 8 April 1968.

But just when the ICRC was feeling that it had overcome the technical obstacles and built up an organization which, in spite of still too many weaknesses, was beginning to produce the right results, a new crisis arose. On 5 June, an aircraft of the Swedish Red Cross operating on the responsibility of the ICRC from the Santa Isabel base was shot down by Nigerian fighters. The four members of the crew were killed. The incident, which was extremely serious since it was a deliberate act against an aircraft protected by the red cross emblem, occurred shortly after the unexpected intervention by the aircraft chartered by Count von Rosen¹. Von Rosen's raids

¹ A Swedish pilot who organized raids against Nigeria on behalf of the secessionist forces.

aroused very high feeling and the resentment to which they gave rise turned against those humanitarian institutions which, by their aid, were helping to prolong the conflict—against those alleged “ neutrals ” which were in fact supporting directly or indirectly the rebels’ war effort. Blame fell on the ICRC and particularly its Commissioner-General, against whom many complaints had been accumulating for months, and who in the end was declared “ *persona non grata* ”.

What could the Committee do? Protest? It did so, but with moderation, in such a way as not to burn its bridges. Stand by its Commissioner-General whose action had helped to save hundreds of thousands of human lives? August Lindt preferred to retire into the background in order that the work of which he had for a time been the living symbol might be carried on. Resume night flights? But the destruction of a Red Cross aircraft and the comments which followed showed that the ICRC would no longer be allowed to act on sufferance as in the past. Obstinacy on its part would have led to a rupture of which the populations it was supporting in Nigerian territory would have had to bear the consequences. The only solution was to negotiate and attempt once again to obtain from both parties an agreement on daylight flights which the Committee—like those responsible for Joint Church Aid—had been wanting for many months and for which they had never ceased work.

But too much distrust and ill-will had accumulated on both sides. Neither party believed in the neutrality of the Committee which refused to make a choice between the victims and persisted in pleading for the other. An agreement of principle was, it is true, obtained regarding the opening-up of an air-lift. It even proved possible to work out the detailed implementation of a plan which the Committee regarded as feasible. But in October 1969, after four months of continuous negotiation, the aircraft were still at their bases at Cotonou and Santa Isabel awaiting the order to take off. Meanwhile Joint Church Aid and the French Red Cross went on with their operations, thus helping to limit the effects of the blockade.

In Nigeria, on the other hand, the ICRC pursued its activities within a limited framework, in conformity with the provisions of the IVth Convention. Although it had been officially informed on

30 June that its rôle as a co-ordinator was ended, it continued its work—actually, at the request of the Nigerian authorities and Red Cross—so as to ensure, in the interest of the population receiving aid, continuity of action. It was only on 30 September that the Nigerian Red Cross again took over the conduct of operations, with the co-operation of the specialists whom the Committee had been requested to make available to co-ordinate the routing of relief supplies.

This brief account of one of the crises in which the ICRC was involved in the past few years has sometimes thrown a harsh light on its weaknesses and the limits of its possibilities. But the balance-sheet of its activities in Nigeria and Biafra nevertheless shows a credit—and not only on account of the amount of the relief supplies distributed and the number of persons helped; the value of a humanitarian action cannot be assessed solely on the basis of statistics, however impressive these may be.

On the credit side we would first set the speed with which action was taken, when all that the ICRC had on the spot was one delegate unsupported by any infrastructure. That speed derives from the very character of the International Committee and the fact that it is unencumbered by the mortgages with which multi-nationality burdens other international institutions. The ICRC is not dependent on any government—not even on the Swiss government, with regard to which it observes a real independence which the Federal Council is anxious to respect. It does not represent the interests of any nation or of any class. It took up the tasks in Nigeria in the same way as everywhere else—Hungary, the Congo, the Yemen, the Middle East. In this case, as in all the others, it considered only the interests of the victims, and, in taking the initial decision, obeyed only the dictates of its conscience.

On the credit side, too, is the setting-up of an international relief organization on a quite impressive scale, even if it did take some time to produce adequate results. But those who, at times somewhat complacently, pointed to its shortcomings and even proposed that the U.N. should in future assume responsibility for those relief operations, have not always realized that the main obstacles to be overcome were not so much technical or financial as political. It is necessary to have experienced at first hand the

daily struggles of the institution and to have participated in the assessments of the situation and the process of decision-making in order to be able to gauge both the obdurate nature of the political obstacle and the limited possibilities open to governments. The fact is that the U.N. did not have authority to intervene in an internal conflict, whereas the ICRC, which did not have to concern itself with the secessionist zone's status, could act on the basis of Article 3 of the Conventions, provided the parties to the conflict accepted it: which they did.

As for the "humanitarian expeditionary corps" formed by the ICRC with the spontaneous support of organizations of all kinds and of governments—in the end it worked, and that is what counted. A valuable experiment was carried out, the lessons of which should be taken to heart should other crises arise.

Also on the credit side is the tenacity with which the undertaking was pursued in spite of repeated crises and a series of setbacks. That tenacity was not the attribute of just one man, nor was it exclusive to the Nigerian operation. Once the ICRC has committed itself to a cause it believes to be just, and on a basis it regards as valid, it is bound to pursue its action for as long as it judges necessary. Many are the governments which have had experience of that frequently irritating obstinacy in the past, and which will have it in the future.

But that tenacity, and that intransigence which we consider necessary, must be contained by certain rules. The ICRC, even if it reserves for itself a right of initiative, must base itself on the Geneva Conventions. It cannot ignore that body of rules which it itself helped to establish and for which it demands respect from States. Hence the limits set to its action in the secessionist zone—limits which an organization *ad hoc* like Joint Church Aid could permit itself to ignore, but which any international institution intending to work on a continuing basis owes it to itself to observe.

That does not mean that we questioned the value of the action conducted with success by Joint Church Aid and by so many other organizations which concerned themselves with helping the civilian population of Biafra. Experience going back long before the Nigerian crisis has proved the work of those "humanitarian campaigners". The Committee is well aware that it is thanks to

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action often fraught with risk and regarded by some as a challenge that humanitarian law has progressed. A certain division of labour has always been necessary, as the Nigerian crisis has perhaps shown even more clearly than before. Just as the ICRC fulfilled a task which the U.N. was not in a position to undertake, so Joint Church Aid, by its participation, made a contribution which the ICRC could not give, and if that organization were one day to find itself unable to carry on the work, perhaps the ICRC might be in a position to take over. It is thus not a matter of praising the merits of one more than another, nor of claiming a monopoly of good deeds. What counts in this world of passion and violence is, through this permanent struggle to save lives, the instilment in all who possess a particle of power of respect for human dignity.

Jacques FREYMOND

Vice-President of the ICRC

Doctors and the Red Cross

By Hans Meuli

The International Committee of Military Medicine and Pharmacy (ICMMP) was founded in 1921, its membership to-day comprising 84 States which send their official representatives to the Congresses organized every two years. At the XIXth Congress in Dublin from 29 December to 2 October 1969, 130 delegates were present. The ICRC attended as one of the seven organizations invited and was represented by Mr. Hans Meuli, Doctor of Medicine, Member of the ICRC and Honorary President of the ICMMP.

The agenda for the scientific meetings included three questions: a) Recent discoveries in blood preservation; b) The importance for the armed forces of tracing and eliminating centres of endemic infections (failures noted particularly in tropical pathology); c) Minimum medico-surgical requirements in fighting areas. In addition, among the many papers delivered, we might mention those dealing with "radiology in aeronautic and space travel medicine", "medical treatment in the US army" and the treatment and detention conditions of prisoners of war in South Vietnam.

The next International Congress will be held in Brussels from 29 June to 1 July 1971. As usual it will deal with three major topics. The fifth International Refresher Course for Junior Medical Officers will take place from 14 to 25 September 1970 at Macolin in Switzerland.

As the doyen of honorary presidents, Mr. H. Meuli took the floor at the opening meeting of the Congress, and at the closing meeting he delivered an address on behalf of the ICRC which we deem expedient to reproduce below. It deals not with the duties of the doctor, which are often the subject of discussions, but with the relationship between the ICRC and the medical profession. (Ed.).

Representing the International Committee of the Red Cross on this occasion gives me a welcome opportunity to thank the International Committee of Military Medicine and Pharmacy (ICMMP) for its constant help and support and at the same time to thank the many medical officers who offered their services to us for various medical missions in so many countries. The ICRC has always need of doctors and qualified medical personnel and we hope that these invaluable and essential volunteers will continue to come forward in sufficient numbers for the accomplishment of manifold, interesting, and satisfying humanitarian assignments.

The XXIst International Conference of the Red Cross which was held at Istanbul closed on 13 September, 1969. It adopted 33 resolutions and was attended by 610 delegates from nearly every country in the world, representing 77 States having acceded to the Geneva Conventions, the ICRC, the League of Red Cross Societies and the National Red Cross, Red Crescent and Red Lion and Sun Societies. Several international organizations including the ICMMP sent observers.

The reaffirmation and development of the laws and customs applicable in armed conflicts was the main subject of the Conference. The proceedings resulted in a resolution requesting the ICRC to continue its work in this field in order to draw up international legal rules. In the field of international law other resolutions were adopted, concerning such subjects as the diffusion of knowledge of the Geneva Conventions, the application of the IVth Convention, the protection of prisoners of war, civilian medical and nursing personnel and victims of non-international armed conflicts. The Conference approved a series of "Principles and Rules for Red Cross Disaster Relief" and the relevant resolutions were concerned also with international disaster relief air transport and the organization of international medical teams.

Following the resolutions adopted and the recommendations expressed by the International Conferences of the Red Cross at Vienna in 1965 and at Istanbul, the ICRC will not fail to frame draft conventions and agreements. We hope that a Diplomatic Conference will be convened to discuss these in the next year or two

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and will convert them into rules to be respected and applied by all States which have ratified the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949.

We must of course close the loop-holes in the Conventions and no one knows war and can assess its horror, and therefore hate it more, than the medical officer. No one is better placed than he to take a stand in favour of peace against war. There is every reason—I would even say necessity—for medical officers in charge of army medical services to participate as members of their countries' governmental delegations in the International Conferences of the Red Cross and in Diplomatic Conferences. They would be first class experts provided they knew the Geneva Conventions, and I hope they will always and everywhere make use of the various opportunities to influence, as government advisers and delegates, the people who direct policy affecting the diffusion of the Conventions, the necessity for revising them, their application which should always be strictly supervised, and I hope they will always see to it that the humanitarian principles are respected.

It goes without saying that an army medical service should be closely linked to the National Red Cross, Red Crescent or Red Lion and Sun Society of its country and I appeal to you—because I know this does not occur everywhere—to maintain these contacts and strengthen the links. It is also essential to establish good co-ordination even in time of peace between the military medical services and those civilian organizations responsible for the protection of the civilian population. There is no doubt that the personnel of the civil defence medical services should, like that of the medical services of all armies, be given the benefit of as effective as possible a protection to enable them to carry out their considerable task in favour of the victims of disaster and especially in the case of armed conflict. All-out war makes distinction in first aid and medical treatment for soldiers and civilians impossible. It strikes wide and deep the whole nation; it is a war in which the entire nation is involved.

One aim of the ICMMP Congress is to contribute indirectly to that amity among nations which is so desirable, through the relations which will surely be formed among officers who are privileged in the exercise of their noble art to serve loyally both their countries and the higher laws of humanity.

The duty incumbent on us all, medical officers of all countries, is to assist the distressed, the wounded and the sick irrespective of nationality, race or religion, and to work against war and for peace. None of us is a representative of one of the forces whose *raison d'être* is destruction, but of the medical service whose aim is to bind the wounds, to help and to heal. In this field there are no diplomatic fetters, no longer are there wages of success, frontiers which we are forbidden to cross, or mutual mistrust.

We discuss in an atmosphere of frankness, confidence and good will. On returning home, medical officers, through their direct influence on their comrades and superiors, have it in their power to promote the diffusion of the Conventions and contribute to limiting the evils of war. And they are also able to spread throughout the world the spirit of confidence not only in the interest of their own countries but in that of all mankind.

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Allow me to turn back just a few pages of the fascinating history of the Red Cross which has, for more than one hundred years, led us to the problems and gloomy predictions of the present day. It is worthwhile our knowing that history better.

On 17 February 1863, four years after the battle of Solferino and one year after the publication of Henry Dunant's *A Memory of Solferino*, there met a private committee of Geneva citizens; they were General Guillaume-Henry Dufour, the legal expert Gustave Moynier, doctors Theodore Maunoir and Louis Appia and Henry Dunant himself. This Committee of Five organized in Geneva an international congress attended by 31 representatives of 16 countries, 21 of them doctors. That congress, under the profound impression left by Dunant's book, recommended the founding of voluntary relief societies and asked governments to grant protection and support to volunteers. It expressed the wish that in time of war belligerents recognize medical units as neutral, that is to say inviolable, and that that protection be extended to the medical personnel of armies, voluntary aids and the wounded themselves in the forces of both parties to a conflict, and, finally, that governments

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choose a single distinctive sign to identify all protected persons and property.

In 1864, the Swiss Federal Council, on a proposal by General Dufour, convened a Diplomatic Conference in Geneva. It was attended by 26 plenipotentiaries—eleven of them doctors—from 16 countries. It drew up the “ Geneva Convention for the Amelioration of the Condition of the Wounded in Armies in the Field ”, which was signed on 22 August of that year and ratified in the years to follow by almost every State in the world.

That First Geneva Convention gave effect to the recommendations of the 1863 Congress and stated the important principle which was decisive for the whole project; that the military wounded and sick should be collected and cared for irrespective of nationality. A sign was chosen to guarantee the protection and assistance thus conferred, it was the protective sign of the Red Cross on a white ground.

The Committee of Five set itself up on the first day as a permanent institution. It was the founder body of the Red Cross and the promoter of the Geneva Conventions. From 1880, onwards it took the name ICRC and to-day, under the direction of its ninth President, Mr. Marcel A. Naville, it comprises 21 members, nine of them legal experts, two doctors and one nurse.

We know Montesquieu's phrase: “ The law of nations is based on the principle that nations should act for each other's greatest benefit in peace and least possible harm in war.” And he added the words quoted by the eminent ICRC President Léopold Boissier on 15 September 1959 at the first International Refresher Course for Junior Medical Officers: “ If man must suffer, let him suffer as little as possible.” Such is the keystone of the Geneva Conventions. Medicine strives for the same objective. The ICRC owes much to doctors; several took part in its foundation and in the drawing up of these Conventions. By recognizing that principle and adhering thereto, the doctor of to-day will help in making them a universal obligation on all consciences as one of civilisation's primary acquisitions.

Yes, it is true that the ICRC owes a great deal to doctors, but they too, like nurses and other medical personnel, owe much to the

ICRC, which endeavours to make it possible for them to give better assistance to the wounded and the sick. Nurses, like doctors, detest war because they too know its horrors and have seen at close quarters all the misery and distress it causes. The book " American Women of Nursery ", recounting the work of 180,000 female nurses of the American armed forces during the Second World War has the following dedication:

" This book is dedicated to nurses of all nations and colors who served in World War II in the hope that they may be the last generation of nurses required for such services."

We might repeat what General Dufour and Gustave Moynier affirmed at the opening session of the first Geneva Conference and which another outstanding ICRC President, Max Huber, summarized as follows 70 years later:

" The Red Cross can and must transmit the spirit of peace by which its members give an example of selfless assistance, by which the barriers separating classes, parties, races and nations are removed. For peace to be maintained, it is certainly not sufficient for a peace treaty to be signed: peace must take root in the hearts of men and women."

In the report which the ICRC submitted in 1963 to the Council of Delegates we may read:

" We have reached a turning point. Methods of warfare are such to-day that any attempt to limit them is in vain; only peace is a valid solution. The need for recourse to the peaceful solution of disputes has become to-day imperious and, in its own field, the Red Cross, by the decisions it reached at Prague in 1961 and by its role in the Cuba events, has shown the importance it attaches to the prevention of conflicts."

Since then armed conflicts have not ceased. The Red Cross carries out its mission and will continue to do so. It takes inspiration from the courage, confidence, faith and hope of its founders.

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Resolution No. X adopted by the XXth International Conference of the Red Cross at Vienna in 1965 “urges all governments to settle their international disputes by peaceful means in the spirit of international law”.

By helping the victims of armed conflicts, by demanding that they be protected, and by urging the respect by enemies of certain principles, the Red Cross strives with all its strength for ideas of fraternity and human tolerance. By doing so it introduces a spirit of peace which can help to diminish hate and violence and might contribute to the cessation of hostilities.

Recent resolutions of International Conferences required the Red Cross to work even more directly for peace. These resolutions recommend National Societies to take, as one of their natural duties, steps to diffuse among youth the ideals of peace, mutual respect and comprehension. They especially encourage the ICRC, in the discharge of its humanitarian mission, to undertake every effort necessary to prevent armed conflicts.

We doctors know especially well that prevention is better than cure. Henry Dunant knew it too and I have no doubt you will be pleased to learn of a little known and quite charming incident: the good Samaritan on the battle-field of Solferino, the founder of the Red Cross who, jointly with Frédéric Passy in 1901, was awarded the first Nobel Peace Prize, was, on 8 August 1903, elected doctor of medicine *honoris causa* by the Heidelberg University Faculty of Medicine.

We must bear high the torch which lights the principles of medical ethics, the intangible laws of medical deontology—the Hippocratic oath and the Geneva Declaration—both in civilian and military life.

A feeling of solidarity, confidence, brotherhood and friendship, an indissoluble bond which, transcending their differences and peculiarities, unites men whose conception of life is the same, whose profession is identical and who have lived like experiences. We wish also to help our colleagues in the medical services of developing countries and who need our support. It is important to make these bonds ever closer and to see to it that this international co-operation among doctors is carried on remote from any political consideration.

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Medical officers can maintain cordial solidarity, despite any national antagonism, because they serve a true common ideal which teaches nations respect for human life.

The years go by and our generation will fade away. Our younger colleagues must set their hearts on accomplishing, in the future which awaits them, the duty of charity which is the medical mission.

In our suffering world, the Red Cross is a force for good, neutrality and solidarity, a means of understanding among the nations; it is a moral force and a symbol of unselfish aid without conditions throughout the world.

Beside its old motto *Inter arma caritas*, there is now a second one *Per humanitatem ad pacem*, and we know well that peace is the true final aim of the Red Cross ideal.

Hans MEULI
Member of the ICRC



INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

EXTERNAL ACTIVITIES

Nigeria

As a result of the events of 10 and 11 January 1970 in Nigeria, with the cessation of the fighting, the ICRC at once took several emergency measures.

On 12 January 1970, the ICRC and the League of Red Cross Societies submitted a joint proposal of humanitarian aid in personnel, equipment and relief. The ICRC proposed in particular the sending to Nigeria of its stocks at present in warehouses at Cotonou, Dahomey (6,000 tons) and the distributing of 5,000 tons of food from the depots of the Nigerian Red Cross at Port Harcourt, Enugu, Aba, Uyo, Koko, Lagos and Calabar.

On 11 January, the ICRC sent out to West Africa Dr. Edwin Spirgi of Basel, responsible for taking initial decisions on the spot. Two days later, Mr. Georges Hoffmann, ICRC Delegate-General for Africa, and Mr. Enrico Bignami, the ICRC President's special envoy in Lagos, flew to Nigeria for contacts with the authorities in connection with the relief action envisaged. Mr. Jacques de Heller, ICRC delegate, left Switzerland for Nigeria, with Dr. Reinhold Wepf, who will take charge of the Swiss Red Cross medical team, working at Amaigbo.

The medical teams which had been working in the former secessionist zone were evacuated on 11 January to Libreville in Gabon. Eight doctors of the ICRC remained at the hospital of Awo-Omamma, continuing to care for the sick and were then repatriated to Europe at the end of January.

*

As mentioned above, the ICRC was greatly concerned about the problem of providing relief to the war victims: several mercy flights have taken place.

On 18 January an ICRC DC-6 left Geneva with a 7½ ton load of medical supplies, reaching Lagos the following day. Another aircraft took off from Zurich on 19 January, delivering its more than 9 tons of medical supplies in Lagos on 20 January. On 23 January two C-97's flew from Cotonou (Dahomey) to Lagos; one with 15 tons of medical supplies and the other with nearly three tons of medicines and over 12 tons of dried fish.

The ICRC's Transall picked up four tons of medicaments in Lagos on 24 January and delivered them to Enugu and Kaduna. On the return flight it brought to Lagos nine casualties. On 25 January it flew 9 tons of medical supplies to Enugu.

Middle East

Visit to Egyptian Prisoners of War.—On 29 and 30 December 1969 the ICRC delegates in Israel visited four members of the armed forces of the United Arab Republic who had been taken prisoner on the 27th of the same month.

Visit to Lebanese Civilians and POWs.—Ten soldiers and twelve civilian Lebanese were taken prisoner by the Israeli armed forces on the night of 2-3 January 1970. Four of the civilians were released and repatriated shortly after their capture.

On 8 January the ICRC delegation in Israel visited four of the eight interned civilians and the ten prisoners of war. The Committee representatives enquired about detention conditions and transmitted family messages for some of the detainees.

The Lebanese authorities have requested the ICRC to intervene with the Israeli government to obtain the release and repatriation of these people who are protected by the provisions of the IIIrd and IVth Geneva Conventions.

Family Reunion.—The ICRC delegates organized two operations to reunite families. On 22 December, 172 displaced Palestinians in the United Arab Republic passed through El Qantara on their way to join their families in the Gaza territory and 102 Egyptians crossed to the west bank of the Suez Canal. At the same time the bodies of two Egyptian soldiers were repatriated.

In addition, the mortal remains of nine Egyptian soldiers were handed over to the UAR authorities on the Suez Canal on 11 January 1970 under ICRC auspices.

At Kuneitra, on 7 January, 30 persons coming from Syria rejoined their families on the occupied Syrian territory of the Golan Plateau. The family reunion operations on this territory had been interrupted for the last few months.

A new Series of Prison Visits.—The fifth series of visits to places of detention in Israel and the occupied territories, which began on 8 October 1969, was completed towards the end of the year.

ICRC delegates went to the Israeli prisons of Ashkelon, Kfar Yona, Damun, Ramleh, Yagour-Jalamé and Atlit. In the occupied territories they went to the Gaza prison and, on the occupied west bank of the Jordan, to the prisons at Jenin, Tulkarem, Nablus, Ramallah, Jericho and Hebron.

In the course of this series the ICRC delegates visited more than 3,000 detained Arabs with whom they were allowed to talk in private. They transmitted family mail and distributed parcels to detainees who could not receive visits from their families. In addition, they organized the free transport once a month of about 1,300 relatives of prisoners who live far from the places of detention.

Distribution of parcels.—At the beginning of December 1969 the ICRC delegates in Israel and the occupied territories distributed comforts in the prisons of Ramleh, Kfar Yona, Tulkarem, Jenin, Nablus, Ashkelon, Hebron and Ramallah.

Standard parcels containing fruit, biscuits, cigarettes and clothing were distributed to 342 Arab prisoners.

Since September 1969 there have been four such distributions among detainees who are not visited by their families. More than 1,300 parcels in all have been distributed to Arab prisoners in Israeli prisons. This programme which is highly appreciated by detainees is continuing in 1970.

People's Republic of South Yemen

In November the ICRC delegation in Aden continued distributing relief to the civilian population. 1,100 families, making a total of

about 8,500 people, 4,000 of them young children, received milk. In addition 4,000 milk rations were distributed. The ICRC continues to help the families of some fifteen detainees.

*

Since May 1969, work in the republican hospital in Aden has been intense. The ICRC doctors performed 721 emergency operations, 68 child births and 1,341 anaesthetizations, 830 of which were for serious operations and 511 were local. In August, emergency surgery increased.

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From mid-October to the end of 1969 the medical team delegated by the ICRC to the Mukallah hospital performed 135 surgical operations. Dr. Bachmann, in charge of the team, gave an average of forty consultations each day.

Since the end of December a team of Soviet doctors has taken over from the ICRC team at the Mukallah Hospital.

Arab Republic of the Yemen

The ICRC's medical team which was sent to the Sa'ada basin, following a request for assistance to the northern sector of the Arab Republic of the Yemen, has now arrived.

Since their arrival at the Sa'ada hospital, Dr. Jaggi, Miss Péclat, an anaesthetist-nurse, and Mr. Conus, a male nurse, have each day treated a considerable number of patients coming not only from the town itself but from all the region.

The ICRC team has been provided with a large quantity of surgical equipment and medical supplies.

Democratic Republic of Vietnam

Five members of the crew of the vessel "Valiente", outward from Singapore, and which had lost its way off Da Nang in March

1966 were released on 20 December 1969 by the Government of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam.

On board an aircraft of the International Control Commission (ICC), the seamen flew to Vientiane where they spent the night and were met by the ICRC delegate in Laos. On 21 December, the seamen left for Phnom Penh. On arrival in the Cambodian capital, they were handed over to the ICRC delegation by members of the Embassy staff and a representative of the Red Cross of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam during the course of a brief ceremony. The seamen then travelled in the same ICC aircraft to Saigon where they arrived safely.

Republic of Vietnam

Delegates of the ICRC in the Republic of Vietnam have recently visited several places of detention. They went to prisoner of war camps at Phu Quoc, Danang and Pleiku, all three administered by the armed forces of the Republic of Vietnam, collecting posts at Di An and Duc Pho in Quang Ngai Province under the US armed forces and two camps near Chu Lai, as well as those of Lai Khe, Quan Loi north of Saigon, An Hoa, An Khe, Baldy south-east of Danang and " Enari " near Pleiku. The delegates also went to the national interrogation centre of Saigon and of Phu Loi in Binh Duong Province. Finally, they visited detainees in the military hospital at Long Binh.

On each visit, the International Committee's representatives enquired into detention conditions. Their reports were duly handed, as is customary, to the authorities of the Detaining Power.

Greece

In December 1969 the International Committee continued the visits to political detainees which it started on 24 November, pursuant to the agreement concluded with the Greek Government.

During the month ICRC delegates went to the Leros-Lakki and Leros-Partheni camps (gendarmierie), the Averoff and Korydalos prisons (Athens police), the military police commissariats of Vassi-

lissis Sofias, the Egine prison (gendarmerie), the Aghios Ioannis Rentis commissariat (gendarmerie) and the prisons of Trikala (gendarmerie) and of Corfu (civil police).

In all these places of detention they were free to come and go as they pleased and to talk in private with detainees for as long as they wished and where they wished. The doctor-delegates examined all sick detainees submitted to them. Special reports were made to the Government on the more serious cases. Comforts were distributed in all the camps.

During the month families continued to make enquiries at the ICRC office about the welfare of their detained relatives.

At the beginning of January the ICRC launched an assistance programme for 3000 needy families whose breadwinners had for one reason or another been in detention for more than two years.

Medicines were provided free to the indigent who so requested and who had a doctor's prescription.

A general report on all visits since 24 November was submitted to the Greek authorities in January 1970.

Hungary

The Federal Republic of Germany having asked the ICRC to act as an intermediary in allocating the financial aid it had decided to grant to the victims of pseudo-medical experiments in concentration camps of the Third Reich, the International Committee continued its indemnity operations for the benefit of surviving victims in 1969.

Following a mission to Hungary in August 1969 by ICRC delegates Miss L. Simonius and Dr. Züst, the Neutral Commission met on December 6 at ICRC headquarters in Geneva. It was chaired by Mr. William Lenoir, Judge of the Geneva Court of Justice, the other members of the Commission being Dr. Sylvain Mutrux, Assistant Medical Director of the Geneva University Bel-Air Psychiatric Clinic, and Professor Pierre Magnenat of the Nestlé Hospital University Clinic in Lausanne.

The Commission's proceedings were attended by Hungarian and German observers. Mrs. Sandoz Böde, Dr. Pal Bacs and

Mr. Imre Pazstor represented the Hungarian Red Cross; Dr. E. Götz represented the German Red Cross in the Federal Republic of Germany.

Of 28 cases examined, 14 were rejected. The remaining 14 were accepted for indemnity, the total amount of which was DM 440,000. These were the last Hungarian applications submitted to the Neutral Commission.

Federal Republic of Germany

Mr. H.-G. Beckh, then ICRC delegate for Europe, was in the Federal Republic of Germany from 15 to 17 December 1969 at the invitation of the Red Cross of that country.

Mr. Beckh had discussions with a representative of the WAST in West Berlin and with officials of the VDK, an organization concerned with the graves of German servicemen. He also visited the Bonn prison where he had talks in private with several political detainees.

Mr. Beckh was received by Mr. Bargatzky, President of the National Society, by Mr. Schlögel, Secretary-General and Mr. Wagner, Assistant Secretary-General and Head of the Tracing Service.

Poland

From 18 to 23 December 1969 Dr. de Rougement, Member of the ICRC, Mr. Pierre Gaillard and Mr. Jean-Pierre Maunoir, Assistant Directors of the ICRC, were in Poland where they took part in two Round Table meetings organized by the Polish Red Cross.

The first, in Gdansk, was held on 19 December. It was attended by some fifty people including representatives of the university and local Red Cross Committee officials. The second took place on 22 December in Warsaw and was attended by the National Society President, Mrs. Domanska, the Vice-Minister of Health and the Head Physician of the Polish army.

Two ICRC films, one on Nigeria and the other on the Yemen, were shown and the Committee delegates replied to questions on ICRC activities.

Latin America

Mr. Serge Nessi, Delegate-General of the ICRC for Latin America, continued his journey of which the *International Review* gave an account in its two previous issues. After attending in Montevideo the IIIrd Regional Conference of Red Cross Societies in southern Latin America, he then went to Paraguay.

At Asunción, Mr. Nessi had fruitful contacts with leading members of the Paraguayan Red Cross. He met the President of the National Society, with whom he brought up the question of extending the activities of the Paraguayan Red Cross by the creation of an ambulance service, a national blood bank and with the training of first-aiders.

The ICRC Delegate-General visited the maternity clinic run by Dr. V. Martinez, Secretary-General of the National Society and in which more than 50 doctors are working.

Contacts were also made by Mr. Nessi with the Paraguayan Minister of Defence with a view to promoting wider dissemination of the Geneva Conventions amongst the armed forces.

*IN GENEVA***New Member of the International Committee**

Meeting in plenary session, the International Committee of the Red Cross elected Mr. Harald Huber to membership.

Born in St. Gall in 1912, Mr. Huber was educated at Rorschach and St. Gall and at the universities of Geneva, Munich, and Zurich. He was awarded the degree of Doctor of Laws at Zurich in 1938 and the lawyer's certificate at St. Gall in 1940.

From that time on he practised as a lawyer in his native city, where he became a member of the City Council. He was later elected to the Grand Council of the Canton of St. Gall and subsequently to the National Council. In 1962 he was appointed a Federal Court judge.

The International Committee is pleased to be able henceforth to count on Mr. Harald Huber's co-operation. With his long experience in law and his understanding of social realities, Mr. Huber will make a valuable contribution to the humanitarian mission carried out under the sign of the red cross.

Contributions to the ICRC

The International Committee of the Red Cross recently received a donation of ten thousand dollars (43,200— Swiss francs) from the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, Lisbon.

It has also received four large donations—26,170 francs, 11,830 francs, 60,000 francs, and 100,000 francs—totalling 198,000 francs. The donors chose to remain anonymous.

The ICRC is profoundly grateful for these generous donations which will be very useful to enable it to continue its humanitarian work for the benefit of needy populations and war victims.

FROM JULY TO OCTOBER 1969

THE ICRC ACTION DURING THE CONFLICT BETWEEN HONDURAS AND EL SALVADOR

I. ORIGIN OF THE CRISIS

The opening of hostilities was preceded by minor incidents at first, then followed by more serious ones notably at the two football matches between the national teams of Honduras and Salvador which took place in June, the one in Tegucigalpa and the other in San Salvador.

On 24 June, Mr. F. J. Guerrero, Minister of Foreign Affairs of El Salvador, informed the ICRC by cable of the message he had sent to the Chairman of the Inter-American Commission of Human Rights in Washington. This message and the various press agency despatches (AFP, Reuter, IPS) mention the expulsion of Salvadoran nationals from Honduras and violations of human rights in Honduras.

Although it did not first of all appear to be a question of troubles characterized by political motives, the ICRC decided to send to Honduras its Delegate-General for Latin America, Mr. S. Nessi, then on mission at Bridgetown (Barbados). The ICRC delegate went first of all to San Pedro Sula then to Tegucigalpa from 29 June to 2 July to examine the situation on the spot with those in charge of the Honduran Red Cross (HRC).

On the eve of his arrival in Honduras a 7-point agreement had been drawn up between the National Red Cross Societies of Salvador, Honduras and Nicaragua on the measures to be taken to come to the aid of persons affected by the events. Following on

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this agreement, concluded in Managua (Nicaragua) on 28 June, a tracing and information office was set up in Tegucigalpa for all Salvadorans resident in Honduras. A similar office was opened in San Salvador. It is worthy of note that these two offices were to remain open and were extremely active until October and that the exchange of correspondence between the two countries at war was effected by the Red Cross Societies whose first-aiders met twice a week at the frontier post of El Amatillo.

On his return to Geneva on 7 July, the delegate of the ICRC informed the ICRC of the situation in Honduras and gave it details of the agreement made between the Red Cross Societies.

Since 15 June, however, large numbers of Salvadorans resident in Honduras continued to arrive at El Amatillo, frontier post between the two countries on the Pan American Highway, where they were cared for by the Salvadoran Red Cross (SRC). This National Society set up an improvised reception camp at San Miguel, where some 18,000 refugees, including women and children, were given assistance until 10 July.

Events then moved apace. On 14 July, the armed forces of Salvador penetrated Honduran territory at several points. From 15 to 17 July, the Salvadoran forces advanced into Honduras to a depth of 10 to 20 km mainly on two axes: northwards to Nueva Ocotepeque which was entirely occupied, eastwards on Nacaome. Bombing also took place in Honduras and Salvador.

On 16 July, the ICRC called the two National Societies asking them for information on the situation, military and civilian victims, prisoners of war and aid requirements. The HRC replied to the ICRC the same day requesting it, as a matter of urgency, to send two delegates to help in having the Geneva Conventions applied.

The ICRC decided on 18 July to send two delegates to the spot and informed the two Red Cross Societies accordingly, as well as the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of both countries.

II. THE VICTIMS OF THE CONFLICT

On the arrival of the two ICRC delegates Mr. S. Nessi and Mr. E. Leemann on 21 July, the situation was as follows:

Since 19 July there had been no troop movements. A cease-fire arranged by the Organization of American States (OAS) had already taken place, but was not put into effect until 22 July.

1. Military victims

During the course of the hostilities, which lasted about 100 hours, there were amongst the armed forces of both countries some 300 dead and 500 wounded, all of whom were evacuated to first-aid posts and hospitals in the interior of Honduras and El Salvador.

2. Prisoners of war

The Honduras army captured 28 Salvadoran NCOs and other ranks who were first interned at Las Casitas, 9 km from Tegucigalpa, then in the capital's Penitentiary.

The Salvadoran army, for its part, captured 2 Honduran officers and 56 NCOs and other ranks, all interned in the Penitentiary at San Vicente.

3. Civilian victims

Amongst civilian victims of the war one should distinguish the following:

- Salvadoran civilians interned in Honduras
- war displaced Hondurans in Honduras
- Honduran refugees in Guatemala and Nicaragua
- Salvadoran refugees in Salvador and Guatemala
- detained Honduran civilians in Salvador, captured by the armed forces of El Salvador in occupied territory.

a) *Salvadoran civilians interned in Honduras.* Following on calls on the Salvador radio, inciting its nationals residing in Honduras to rise, a large number of Salvadorans were interned in improvised internment camps.

On 21 July there were over 5,000 Salvadorans interned in half a dozen camps. This figure was increased by 23 August to a little over 10,000 in 32 internment camps.

The exact number of internees during the conflict has never been established. The Honduran authorities themselves do not

know it and the census started by the OAS has never been completed.

b) *War displaced Hondurans in Honduras.* From the opening of the conflict, large numbers of civilians fled the fighting areas and took refuge in the interior of the country. The exact number of these refugees has never been definitely established either. According to certain sources there were said to be 19,454 on 25 July, exceeding 30,000 two days later and amounting to over 50,000 by the end of the month.

However, the ICRC delegates are of the opinion that there were never more than 15,000 persons displaced in Honduras. The problem of the war displaced was in fact resolved very rapidly with the evacuation of the occupied territories, when the great majority of displaced persons were able to return to their villages.

c) *Honduran refugees in Guatemala and Nicaragua.* The bombing of Choluteca and the advance of Salvadoran troops towards Nacaome led to an exodus of the civilian population from the outskirts of Choluteca to nearby Nicaragua where 2,000 Hondurans took refuge in the frontier town of Somoto.

With the occupation of Nueva Ocotepeque in Honduras, several hundreds of Honduran nationals took refuge in Guatemala in the town of Esquipulas where 5,000 refugees were cared for by the Guatemalan Red Cross.

These two groups of refugees were aided on their arrival by the authorities and National Societies of the two receiving countries. The Honduran refugees were repatriated by the two respective Red Cross Societies at the beginning of August.

d) *Salvadoran refugees in Guatemala and Salvador.* Salvadorans living in the northern part of Honduras (Departments of Atlantida and Cortés) had already taken refuge from 3 July in Guatemala through the frontier post at El Cinchado. More than 1,300 Salvadorans were thus received and assisted by the Guatemalan Red Cross in improvised camps at Puerto Barrios and Izabal.

The most massive exodus of Salvadorans, however, took place to Salvador itself. From 28 June to 23 July, 21,300 Salvadorans,

and by the beginning of October over 36,000 Salvadorans, of whom several thousands of women and children (the latter sometimes of Honduran nationality), returned to El Salvador, often destitute.

Most of these refugees crossed the frontier at the El Amatillo post, in the East of the country on the Pan American Highway and at El Poy in the North on the Nueva Ocotepeque-San Salvador road. At these two frontier posts the Salvadoran Red Cross checked the refugees' arrival, gave them medical aid and food, and channelled them to reception camps at Santa Tecla, Chalatenango, San Miguel, San Vicente and La Unión.

The refugees who passed from Honduras to Guatemala returned to Salvador from the West and were received in camps of the Salvadoran Red Cross at Santa Ana, Ahuachapan, Sonsonate and Ciudad Arce. These refugees did not stay in these camps, whose capacity was about 200 to 300 persons, longer than 24 to 48 hours on the average. They were registered and then sent to their own villages or else to relatives or friends. Most of these persons were engaged in agriculture or worked temporarily on new public works projects started by the Salvadoran Government.

e) *Detained Honduran civilians in Salvador.* 478 Hondurans, including 71 women and 86 children, were captured by the armed forces of El Salvador, mostly in occupied Honduran territory; they were incarcerated in several prisons in Salvador.

Women, children and some aged persons were temporarily interned in two camps supervised, fortunately, by the Salvadoran Red Cross, one in Cafetalón at Santa Tecla (133) and the other at Red Cross headquarters at San Miguel (62).

Ten other Honduran women, arrested in Salvador, were held in the women's prison at Ilopango.

The other detainees, all men, were incarcerated in the following prisons: Penal centre at Cojutepeque (133); Penitentiary at Santa Ana (50); Penal centre at Zacatecoluca (25); Penal centre at Sonsonate (25); National Police central headquarters (31); Guardia Nacional central headquarters (3).

To those should be added 3 detainees, held in the Rinaldi College, and 3 others interned in the Don Bosco College, both located in San Salvador.

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

III. ICRC ASSISTANCE TO THE VICTIMS OF THE CONFLICT

The task of the ICRC delegates was both dual and complementary :

— first, to examine with the respective Governments and Red Cross Societies all problems connected with assisting the victims;

— secondly, to see to the application of the 1949 Geneva Conventions by the Honduran and Salvadoran authorities at all levels. Both these countries are Parties to the Conventions of 1949, El Salvador having ratified them in 1953 and Honduras having acceded to these Conventions in 1965.

1. Interned Salvadorans (application of the Fourth Convention)

In order to observe the real situation and the internees' needs, the delegates of the ICRC visited the following internment camps in Honduras from 21 to 25 July:

In the Department of Cortés:

Agas camp (2,500 internees), at San Pedro Sula,
Castle of San Fernando de Omoa (220) at Omoa

In the Department of Atlántida:

Tela Penitentiary (890) at Tela

In the Department of Yoro:

El Progreso camp (750) at El Progreso ¹

In the Department of Francisco Morazán:

National Stadium (450) at Tegucigalpa

In the Department of Valle:

Nacaome Penitentiary (95) at Nacaome.

In co-operation with the delegates of the ICRC the HRC then made distributions, in camps where needs were greatest, of tents to protect internees from the seasonal torrential rains, plastic plates and other cooking utensils, disinfectants for water purification in order to ward off all risks of epidemics, and anti-influenza and anti-diarrhoea medicines (antibiotics).

¹ *Plate.* — Honduras: During the Honduras-Salvador conflict in 1969 ICRC representatives visit Salvadoran civilians interned at El Progreso.

In the Agas camp at San Pedro Sula, the local Red Cross early on set up a small dispensary and a canteen where volunteers prepared three meals daily with food collected from the inhabitants of the town.

For prophylactic purposes, anti-tetanus vaccinations were also given in this camp.

To come to the aid of the Salvadoran internees, a telegraphic appeal was made on 23 July by the League of Red Cross Societies, in agreement with the ICRC, to 12 National Societies of the American continent.

In addition to relief given by sister Societies, two consignments were despatched direct from the League to the HRC. They consisted of vaccines (DPT and anti-tetanus) and medicines (penicillin sulfamides, anti-asthma and anti-diarrhoea).

The ICRC, for its part, despatched as a matter of urgency on 25 July to the HRC, 25 boxes of plasma, 1 box of antibiotics, surgical kits and bandaging equipment.

The relief supplies sent by the League and the ICRC constituted aid additional to the considerable amount already received by the "Comité Cívico Pro Defensa Nacional" responsible for ensuring distributions from foreign organizations, mainly from USAID, Caritas, Care, Catholic Relief Services, Church World Service, Pan American Development Foundation and the Pan American Health Organization.

Several Governments (Brazil, Chile, Haiti, Mexico, Panama, Peru, Venezuela, etc.) made donations (vaccines, medicine, rice, etc.).

In these conditions, it appeared unnecessary to the ICRC delegates to launch a general Red Cross appeal. They preferred to ask Geneva for a certain amount of medicine and vaccines to provide for all eventualities. All the relief in fact received by Honduras was sufficient to meet the needs of the victims of the conflict, as well as a large section of the population for several months.

On 30 August, the OAS obtained from the Honduran authorities the complete evacuation of the internment camps. This evacuation, started on 30 August, ended in mid-September and contributed considerably to the increase in the exodus of Salvadorans.

2. Prisoners of war (application of the Third Convention)

In Honduras and El Salvador permission to visit prisoners, talk with them without witnesses and bring them aid was immediately granted to the ICRC delegates. Regular visits were made and on each occasion emergency aid (matting, blankets, underclothes, medicine, reading matter, clothes, soap, toilet articles, cigarettes and biscuits, etc.) was brought to the prisoners.

After making several representations, both verbal and in writing, to the governments and military staffs of Honduras and El Salvador, and thanks to the negotiations carried out at the same time by the OAS, the delegates of the ICRC obtained agreement from both parties for the release and repatriation of prisoners of war.

In the evening of 3 August, Salvadoran troops finished withdrawing to positions occupied before the outbreak of the conflict, a withdrawal which was imposed by the 13th Meeting of Consultation of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the OAS in Washington, and accepted by El Salvador on 30 July.

On 12 August there took place the exchange of prisoners of war. This was carried out at the middle of the bridge linking Honduras with El Salvador at the frontier post at El Amatillo, in the presence of the two ICRC delegates and the Presidents of the Honduran and Salvadoran Red Cross Societies. The POWs were taken in charge by the two National Societies who arranged transport to the respective capitals.

It should be noted that this exchange took place exactly twenty years after the signing on 12 August 1949 of the Third Geneva Convention relative to the treatment of prisoners of war and whose article 118 stipulates that POWs shall be repatriated without delay after the cessation of hostilities.

3. Honduran detained civilians (application of the Fourth Convention)

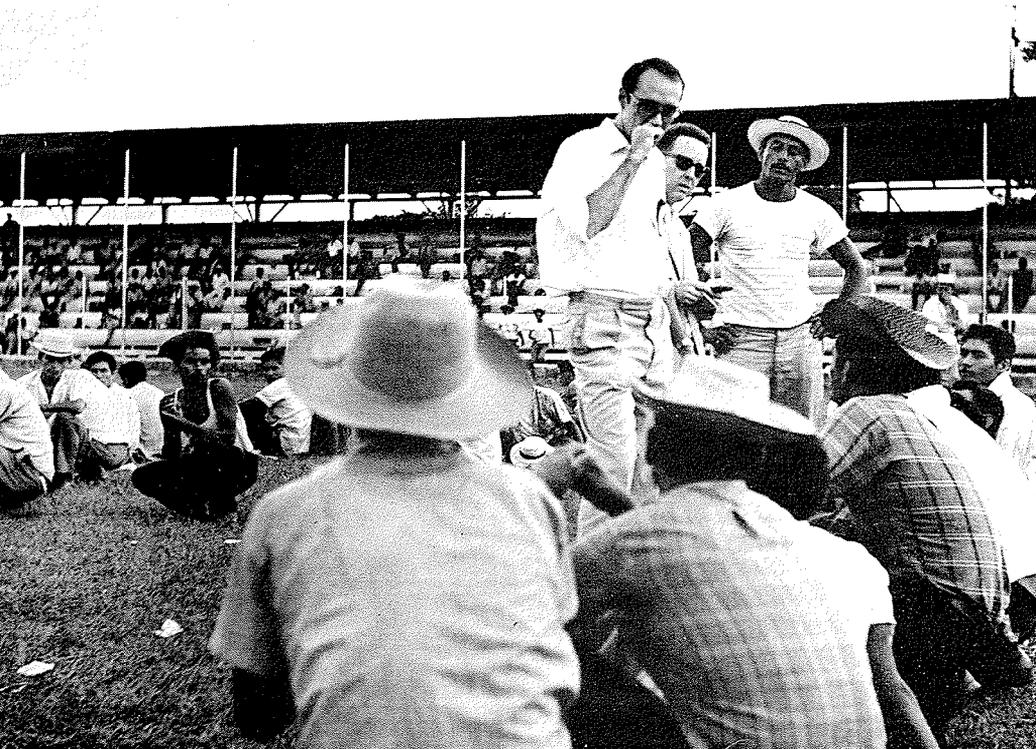
The 478 Honduran civilians, detained in 11 different places of detention, were regularly visited by the ICRC delegates.

Each visit was the subject of a report immediately forwarded to the ICRC in Geneva. All visits, as is customary, were of a strictly



Rome — In the name of the ICRC, of which he is the president, Mr. M. A. Naville (*on left*) receives the Antonio Feltrinelli Gold Medal, at the Accademia nazionale dei Lincei.

Honduras — During the Honduras-Salvador conflict in 1969 ICRC representatives (*left*, Mr. Nessi, delegate-general, *centre*, Mr. Leemann, delegate) visit Salvadoran civilians interned at El Progreso.



humanitarian character and were restricted to the examination of detention conditions.

With the co-operation of the SRC, the delegates of the ICRC brought to these detainees regular assistance consisting of medicine, food, clothing and cigarettes and, where necessary, obtained the possibility for them of daily physical exercise in the open air, as well as authorization to receive and regularly send mail.

Following on an agreement concluded between the El Salvador authorities and the delegates of the ICRC and in application of articles 49, 77 and 133 of the Fourth Geneva Convention relative to the protection of civilian persons in time of war of 12 August 1949, the Honduran civilian detainees were released and repatriated to Honduras in different stages.

The repatriation of the last of those civilians, on 6 October 1969, terminated the ICRC's action in El Salvador and Honduras.



The ICRC is Awarded the Antonio Feltrinelli Gold Medal

On 15 November 1969 the *Accademia nazionale dei Lincei* presented the International Committee of the Red Cross with the Antonio Feltrinelli gold medal which is awarded in recognition of actions of a high humanitarian and moral value or for work in medical science.¹

During the ceremony at the Palais Corsini in Rome, the President of the ICRC, Mr. Marcel A. Naville, delivered an address to the members of the Academy and to the many eminent guests.

“ This distinguished Academy’s decision to confer on the International Committee of the Red Cross the Antonio Feltrinelli gold medal is a noble gesture ”, he said “ of which I am most sensible and which is a particular honour, for it strengthens yet further the bonds which for more than a century unite Italy and our institution profoundly both historically and on the plane of friendship and trust. I know I speak for my colleagues on the International Committee when expressing our profound gratitude. This high distinction also fills with pride and joy the many people who, in co-operation with the ICRC in Geneva and elsewhere, devote themselves to the Red Cross mission. . . .

. . . It is well known that it was in Italy that the idea which was to become in a few years the world’s greatest movement of organized solidarity on a private level was born: the Red Cross. It is only right to state that the movement is one of the finest and most useful achievements, one of the most fascinating adventures of the human mind. . . .

¹ *Plate.* — Rome: In the name of the ICRC, of which he is the President, Mr. M. A. Naville receives the Antonio Feltrinelli Gold Medal.

. . . Henry Dunant was of course not the first to be moved by the horrors of war or to help the wounded of both sides in conflict. We must not forget Ferdinando Palasciano, an ardent defender of the neutral status of the wounded. But what came from that meeting of the Genevese spirit, inclined by tradition to assist others, and the warm fraternity and profoundly human feeling of the Italian people; what constituted the revolutionary innovation and the basic principle of the movement which was to be known as the Red Cross, was the recognition by States and armies that the man *hors de combat*, the man who had fallen in battle and was no longer able to defend himself, was entitled to the same care and protection whatever side he had fought on. This principle, so simple and yet so admirable, was in the course of a century to be enormously and unexpectedly developed."

The speaker then referred to the origin of the Geneva Conventions and the foundation and growth of National Societies. Describing the structure and action of the ICRC, he stated that its mission was to defend human dignity, to alleviate suffering wherever war raged or oppression prevailed, to provide relief and visit prisoners. It aided victims without drawing any distinction, and therein lay the guarantee of its impartiality. It was perhaps one of the few international organizations which could remain entirely independent of political, religious or military influence.

Mr. Naville then reviewed the missions undertaken during the last World War by the International Committee of the Red Cross for the benefit of military and civilian victims. Moral suffering being no less painful than the physical, the ICRC was concerning itself with the remedy. The Central Tracing Agency had been and still was an active centre where inquiries, letters, messages, lists, card indexes (45 million to-day) were the means which often permitted the anxiety of prisoners and their families to be allayed. However, the end of conflict did not put an end to the ICRC's mission. The ICRC continued to act to ensure respect for the spirit and the letter of the Conventions during conflicts or internal disorders. That was a step forward, since the ICRC concerned itself for political detainees; so far its delegates had been able to talk in private with more than 100,000 political detainees in more than forty countries.

“ . . . Whenever the Red Cross scope is broadened,” concluded the speaker, “ every time our delegates open a door hitherto closed, that means a little more humanity comes to the fore and a little more barbarity recedes. We intend to wage war on all forms of deliberate degradation of the defenceless human being. To those who can no longer make their voices heard, we wish at least to bring them our presence, so that all men who are oppressed, who are in irons, tortured and humiliated may feel they are not alone, not abandoned. For what is the purpose of the Red Cross if it is not the defence of an idea which, for centuries past, the *Accademia nazionale dei Lincei* has sought to illustrate: the idea of man’s dignity? ”.

A PUBLICATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL TRACING SERVICE

The International Tracing Service, directed and administered by the ICRC since 1955, has recently produced a volume of considerable importance after several years work based on documents obtained over the past twenty years. This consists of 612 pages, in addition to an introduction of 50 pages and is entitled, *Vorläufiges Verzeichnis der Haftstätten unter dem Reichsführer-SS, 1933-1945*.¹ (Provisional list of concentration camps and their outside detachments, and of their places of detention dependent on the Reichsführer-SS in Germany and the German-occupied territories, 1933-1945.)

It will be recalled that the ITS published, from 1949 to 1951, a *Catalogue of Camps and Prisons in Germany and German-occupied territories, 1939-1945*. A new edition of this catalogue, now long out of date, is in the process of preparation. However, the new

¹ Internationaler Suchdienst, Arolsen, 1969, I. Band.

form given to the German Indemnity Law made it necessary to draw up a special catalogue of places of detention without delay. In fact, a paragraph in this law lays down that the Federal Government has the power to determine by decree those places of detention which should be considered to be concentration camps for the purposes of compensation.

The places of detention mentioned in this catalogue are classified in different categories according to the actual authority on which they depended. Apart from concentration camps which, with their detachments and sub-detachments, constitute the most important group (259 pages), eleven other categories are mentioned. To take one example, the 170 detachments of the Dachau concentration camp alone cover 30 pages.

The catalogue gives the following information on each place of detention: name and exact location, whether for men or for women, dates of opening and closing down, other details such as the detainees' employer, the nature of the work, accommodation, etc..., which might facilitate identification.

A 90-page alphabetical register gives easy reference to items including, in addition to the different names of places of detention, detachments grouped under the name of the enterprise, or organization for which they worked, and abbreviations.

This work will certainly be most useful to all having to deal with the painful problems concerning the indemnification of the victims of the concentration camp system. It can be considered to be the first volume of the new edition of the catalogue mentioned above which, in a subsequent volume, will comprise more detailed information on the concentration camps and other types of places of detention, such as prisons of the police, Gestapo, justice and the armed forces.

IN THE RED CROSS WORLD

FOURTH REGIONAL MEETING OF RED CROSS SOCIETIES IN MEXICO

The fourth meeting of Presidents and Technical Personnel of the National Societies of North America, Mexico, Central America and Panama was held in Mexico City from 18 to 22 November 1969. Organized under the patronage of the League of Red Cross Societies, it followed on the meeting which took place in November 1967 in Guatemala and like the previous ones its purpose was to strengthen the personal contacts between leading members of the National Societies of that part of the world and draw up common programmes. There were thus four specialist seminars on first-aid, the Junior Red Cross, nurses and home care and women's voluntary work.

During the Presidents' meeting, at which Mr. Serge Nessi, ICRC delegate-general for Latin America, was present, various questions such as the dissemination of the Geneva Conventions, the history, principles and action of the Red Cross were the subject of resolutions some of which were as follows.

The recommendation was first of all made, that all National Societies make representations with their respective authorities for a course on the Red Cross to be introduced in school programmes as well as in military colleges (Resolution 2).

Submitted by the Guatemalan Red Cross, a document entitled "History of the Red Cross, its fundamental principles and the Geneva Conventions" and intended chiefly for the National Societies and military colleges, was accepted and will be presented for definite approval to the IXth Inter-American Red Cross

Conference which will be held in Managua in November 1970 (Resolution 3).

Two resolutions are of more particular interest for the ICRC. The one recommends National Societies to remind their governments of their obligations regarding dissemination of the Geneva Conventions (Resolution 11) and the other concerning ICRC activity for political detainees (Resolution 10). The following is the complete text of these two resolutions:

Diffusion of Geneva Conventions

The National Red Cross Societies of the United States, Mexico, Central America and Panama, bearing in mind the obligations incumbent on the Red Cross, in the event of armed conflict or internal disturbances, to protect conflict victims as effectively as possible,

- a) *recommend National Societies urgently to remind their Governments of articles 47 (I), 48 (II), 127 (III) and 144 (IV) of the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, according to which " the High Contracting Parties undertake, in time of peace and 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 " .*
- b) *recommend National Societies to inform the ICRC of the outcome of such action and of arrangements made to implement the articles in question.*

Political Detainees

The National Red Cross Societies of the United States, Mexico, Central America and Panama,

- a) *express their gratitude to the ICRC for its humanitarian action in various parts of the world for the benefit of persons deprived of freedom for offences or reasons which are political or ideological.*

IN THE RED CROSS WORLD

- b) *recommend National Societies to give their support to future actions undertaken by the International Committee in this field and to seek to participate as much as possible and on a regular basis in that action and at the same time to request the ICRC's material assistance in case of need.*
-

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To enable the Red Cross the better to explain itself and give a clear and simple general view of its functions, the Henry Dunant Institute has established three instructional aids.¹

There is first of all a folder in five colours which gives at a glance the main situations in which the Red Cross is called upon to act. By folding, one can see how the Red Cross intervenes in situations of distress and understand the task of the different Red Cross bodies and the methods they employ.

Great care has been taken in the lay-out and draughtmanship of this folder which is of attractive design.

For those having to give talks on the Red Cross, the diagrams illustrating the folder also exist in diapositive form.

The text of a model lecture of some forty-five minutes duration has been drawn up by Mr. Pierre Boissier, Director of the Institute,

¹ On sale at the Henry Dunant Institute, 3, rue de Varembe - 1202 Geneva. Folder: 5 sw.frs. Diapositives (the set): 5.50 sw.frs. Lecture: 5 sw.frs. Lower charges for bulk orders.

to help speakers. This lively and straightforward presentation can of course be altered according to the wishes of those making use of it.

The folder is written in French and English but the Institute can arrange to have it translated in any other language. The English translation of the lecture is in the process of preparation.

Australia

Mr. August Lindt, Ambassador of Switzerland, ICRC Commissioner General for West Africa until June 1969, has received the Australian Red Cross Medal of Honour as a token of esteem for the accomplishment of his mission for the victims of the conflict in Nigeria.

In its citation accompanying the award of this high honour, the Australian Red Cross said that Mr. Lindt built up a large scale relief programme on both sides of the front. " His direction of this operation and his qualities as a leader encouraged the Red Cross teams to extraordinary dedication and steadfast determination. "

ANNALES DE DROIT INTERNATIONAL MÉDICAL

The *Annales de Droit international médical*, published regularly by the Commission Médico-juridique de Monaco¹, is a constant source of interest.

Issue No. 18 contains some particularly important contributions. The first of these is an article by Professor Paul de La Pradelle which, under the title *Jus cogens et Conventions humanitaires*, deals with a problem which is topical because one provision of the draft drawn up by the UN International Law Commission on the law of treaties is intended to nullify any treaty which is in conflict with an imperative general international law standard recognised as *jus cogens*. After recalling the doctrinal bases for this concept, the author considers the incidence on international humanitarian law and particularly the Geneva Conventions.

We then find in the last issue of these *Annales*, under the title "*l'application des Conventions de Genève*", a report by Mr. J. C. Scholsem which gives an account of an enquiry into this subject by the *Centre d'études de Droit international médical de Liège*, in co-operation with the International Law Association, among competent people and institutions.

The enquiry included three fundamental aspects: 1) What is the nature and legal scope of the Geneva Conventions? 2) How should the first article which is common to all four Conventions—"The High Contracting Parties undertake to respect and to ensure respect for the present Convention in all circumstances"—be construed? 3) If one admits that States are committed to ensuring that other States respect the Geneva Conventions, what permissible and effective means have they of doing so?

Mr. Scholsem gives us a summary of twenty-five detailed replies. Most of them recognize that the Geneva Conventions are not treaties which are founded on reciprocity of benefits. They postulate,

¹ Palais de Monaco. This publication is in French and the extracts quoted in this article are translated by us.

among States, a community of aims which demands concerted action of those States. The purpose and nature of these Conventions demand as extensive an interpretation as possible.

It has been pointed out that in the first article of the Geneva Conventions the expression " respect " might be considered superfluous since it covers an obligation resulting from the fact that the Parties have signed the Conventions and it might also be held that " to ensure respect " is far too vague. On the interpretation of these latter words, opinions are extremely divided. Some hold that they impose only internal obligations on States. Others consider they apply equally on an international plane, and that they would otherwise have no meaning.

The public order character of humanitarian law—the report says—requires active co-operation by all States to maintain and reinforce the higher legal order which they sought and established. The obligation to ensure respect for the Red Cross Conventions internationally is not the product of a rash, or as some might say, thoughtless interpretation: it is implicit in the very nature of the Conventions.

This idea seems to be acquiring wider and wider acceptance. For instance, one resolution adopted by the International Conference on Human Rights at Teheran in 1968 on the protection of human rights in the event of armed conflicts states that the Conference notes " that states parties to the Red Cross Geneva Conventions sometimes fail to appreciate their responsibility to take steps to ensure the respect of these humanitarian rules in all circumstances by other States, even if they are not themselves directly involved in an armed conflict ".

It need hardly be said that this is a point which the ICRC has interpreted very widely in its Commentary on the Conventions.

We would also mention another article, "*la place des Conventions humanitaires dans le droit des gens*" by Mr. Maurice Benoit.

As usual, the *Annales* contain a wealth of documentary material which forms a useful supplement to this welcome issue.

J. P.

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.¹

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;

¹ 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 co-operation 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.

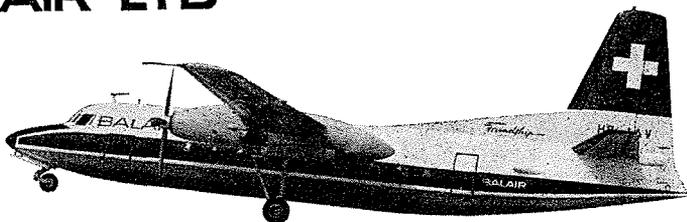
ART. 6 (first paragraph). — The ICRC shall co-opt its members from among Swiss citizens. The number of members may not exceed twenty-five.

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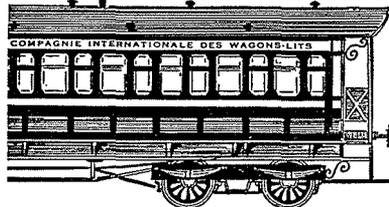
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- ALGERIA — Central Committee of the Algerian Red Crescent Society, 15 bis, Boulevard Mohamed V, *Algiers*.
- ARGENTINE — Argentine Red Cross, H. Yrigoyen 2068, *Buenos Aires*.
- AUSTRALIA — Australian Red Cross, 122-128 Flinders Street, *Melbourne, C. 1*.
- AUSTRIA — Austrian Red Cross, 3 Gusshausstrasse, Postfach 39, *Vienna IV*.
- 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 12 cz/86, *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, rue du Marché 3, P.O. Box 1324, *Bujumbura*.
- CAMBODIA — Cambodian Red Cross, 17, Vithei Croix-Rouge, P.O.B. 94, *Phnom-Penh*.
- CAMEROON — Central Committee of the Cameroon Red Cross Society, rue Henry-Dunant, P.O.B. 631, *Yaoundé*.
- CANADA — Canadian Red Cross, 95 Wellesley Street, East, *Toronto 284* (Ontario).
- CEYLON — Ceylon Red Cross, 106 Dharmapala Mawatte, *Colombo VII*.
- CHILE — Chilean Red Cross, Avenida Santa Maria 0150, Casilla 246 V., *Santiago de Chile*.
- CHINA — Red Cross Society of China, 22 Kanmien Hutung, *Peking, E*.
- COLOMBIA — Colombian Red Cross, Carrera 7a, 34-65 Apartado nacional 1110, *Bogotá D.E*.
- CONGO — Red Cross of the Congo, 41, Avenue Valcke P.O. Box 1712, *Kinshasa*.
- COSTA RICA — Costa Rican Red Cross, Calle 5a, Apartado 1025, *San José*.
- CUBA — Cuban Red Cross, Calle 23 201 esq. N. Vedado, *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, Ny Vestergade 17, *Copenhagen K*.
- DOMINICAN REPUBLIC — Dominican Red Cross, Calle Galvan 24, Apartado 1293, *Santo Domingo*.
- ECUADOR — Ecuadorean Red Cross, Calle de la Cruz Roja y Avenida Colombia 118, *Quito*.
- ETHIOPIA — Ethiopian Red Cross, Red Cross Road No. 1, P.O. Box 195, *Addis Ababa*.
- FINLAND — Finnish Red Cross, Tehtaankatu 1 A, Box 14168, *Helsinki 14*.
- FRANCE — French Red Cross, 17, rue Quentin Bauchart, *Paris* (8^e).
- GERMANY (Dem. Republic) — German Red Cross in the German Democratic Republic, Kaitzerstrasse 2, *Dresden A. 1*.
- GERMANY (Federal Republic) — German Red Cross in the Federal Republic of Germany, Friedrich-Ebert-Allee 71, 5300 *Bonn 1*, Postfach (D.B.R.).
- GHANA — Ghana Red Cross, P.O. Box 835, *Accra*.
- GREAT BRITAIN — British Red Cross, 9 Grosvenor Crescent, *London, S.W.1*.
- GREECE — Hellenic Red Cross, rue Lycavittou 1, *Athens 135*.
- GUATEMALA — Guatemalan Red Cross, 3.º Calle 8-40 zona 1, *Guatemala C.A.*
- GUYANA — Guyana Red Cross, P.O. Box 351, Eve Leary, *Georgetown*.
- HAITI — Haiti Red Cross, Place des Nations Unies, B.P. 1337, *Port-au-Prince*.
- HONDURAS — Honduran Red Cross, 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, 16 Merrion Square, *Dublin 2*.
- ITALY — Italian Red Cross, 12, via Toscana *Rome*.
- IVORY COAST — Ivory Coast Red Cross Society, B.P. 1244, *Abidjan*.
- JAMAICA — Jamaica Red Cross Society, 76 Arnold Road, *Kingston 5*.
- JAPAN — Japanese Red Cross, 5 Shiba Park, Minato-Ku, *Tokyo*.
- JORDAN — Jordan National Red Crescent Society, P.O. Box 10 001, *Amman*.
- KENYA — Kenya Red Cross Society, St Johns Gate, P.O. Box 712, *Nairobi*.
- KOREA (Democratic People's 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-Donk, *Seoul*.
- KUWAIT — Kuwait Red Crescent Society, P.O. Box 1359, *Kuwait*.
- LAOS — Lao Red Cross, P.B. 650, *Vientiane*.
- LEBANON — Lebanese Red Cross, rue Général Spears, *Beirut*.

ADDRESSES OF CENTRAL COMMITTEES

- LIBERIA** — Liberian National Red Cross, National Headquarters, Corner of Tubman boulevard and 9th Street Sinkor, P.O. Box 226, *Monrovia*.
- LIBYAN ARAB REPUBLIC** — Libyan Red Crescent, Berka Omar Mukhtar Street, P.O. Box 541, *Benghazi*.
- LIECHTENSTEIN** — Liechtenstein Red Cross, *Vaduz*.
- LUXEMBOURG** — Luxembourg Red Cross, Parc de la Ville, C.P. 234, *Luxembourg*.
- MADAGASCAR** — Red Cross Society of Madagascar, rue Clemenceau, P.O. Box 1168, *Tananarive*.
- MALAYSIA** — Malaysian Red Cross Society, 519 Jalan Belfield. *Kuala Lumpur*.
- MALI** — Mali Red Cross, B.P. 280, route de Koulikora, *Bamako*.
- MEXICO** — Mexican Red Cross, Avenida Ejército Nacional, n° 1032, *Mexico* 10, D.F.
- MONACO** — Red Cross of Monaco, 27 Boul. de Suisse, *Monte-Carlo*.
- MONGOLIA** — Red Cross Society of the Mongolian People's Republic, Central Post Office, Post Box 537, *Ulan Bator*.
- MOROCCO** — Moroccan Red Crescent, rue Benzakour, B.P. 189, *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 Noroeste, *Managua*, D.N.
- NIGER** — Red Cross Society of Niger, B.P. 386, *Niamey*.
- NIGERIA** — Nigerian Red Cross Society, Eko Akete Close, off. St. Gregory Rd., Onikan, 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, Jiron Chancay 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 Socialist Republic of Rumania, Strada Biserica Amzei 29, *Bucarest*.
- SALVADOR** — Salvador Red Cross, 3a Avenida Norte y 3a Calle Poniente 21, *San Salvador*.
- SAN MARINO** — San Marino Red Cross, Palais gouvernemental, *San Marino*.
- SAUDI ARABIA** — Saudi Arabian Red Crescent *Riyadh*.
- SENEGAL** — Senegalese Red Cross Society, Bld. Franklin-Roosevelt, P.O.B. 299, *Dakar*.
- SIERRA LEONE** — Sierra Leone Red Cross Society, 6 Liverpool Street, P.O.B. 427, *Freetown*.
- SOMALI REPUBLIC** — Somali Red Crescent Society, P.O. Box. 937, *Mogadiscio*.
- SOUTH AFRICA** — South African Red Cross, Cor. Kruis & Market Streets, 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, 10440, *Stockholm 14*.
- SWITZERLAND** — Swiss Red Cross, Taubenstrasse, 8, B.P. 2699, 3001 *Berne*.
- SYRIA** — Syrian Red Crescent, 13, rue Mahdi Ben Baraka, *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*.
- UGANDA** — Uganda Red Cross, 57 Roseberry Street, P.O. Box 494, *Kampala*.
- 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, Tcheremushki, J. Tcheremushkinskii proezd 5, *Moscow W-36*.
- 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 Hông-Thập-Tu, No. 201, *Saigon*.
- YUGOSLAVIA** — Yugoslav Red Cross, Simina ulica broj 19, *Belgrade*.
- ZAMBIA** — Zambia Red Cross, P.O. Box R. W. 1, Ridgeway, *Lusaka*.