

JULY 1962

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

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INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS  
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# INTERNATIONAL REVIEW OF THE RED CROSS

SECOND YEAR — No. 16

JULY 1962

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### A GLANCE THROUGH THE REVIEWS

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## FRENCH EDITION OF THE REVIEW

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

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### SPANISH

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## Two great figures in Red Cross history

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Among the friends and supporters of Henry Dunant, two Dutchmen take an outstanding place : Dr. J. H. C. Basting and Captain C. W. M. van de Velde<sup>1</sup>.

Dr. Johan Hendrik Christiaan Basting was born in Enkhuizen on September 20, 1817. His father was an administrative officer in the Dutch navy and directed a military hospital. However, he died in 1821, so that the son cannot have had a real recollection of his father. On the other hand, his warm feelings towards his mother were always to guide him.

Basting chose the medical profession and from 1834 to 1839 he attended lectures at the school for military medicine at Utrecht. Many great physicians received their initial training from this institute. One of the students with Basting was F. C. Donders, who was to become the famous ophthalmologist. In 1839, Basting, at 22, became an army-surgeon, class III, and served in various garrisons until 1853. Then in 1854 he was in Gorinchem as Head Surgeon of the garrison. Here he met his future wife, Miss A. F. Kattenbusch, whom he married in the same year. A short stay in Leyden was used to prepare a dissertation on diseases among soldiers during 1854 in the Leyden garrison. As a young doctor of medicine, Basting came to The Hague and it was during that time until 1866 that he was to become one of the promoters of the Red Cross idea.

In his spare time, Basting liked the study of languages and literature and at the age of 40 he learned English and Spanish. This talent has had a great importance for the Red Cross, because Basting became the great mainstay for Dunant being able to express

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

himself fluently in foreign languages. When he received through a Swiss friend a copy of *Souvenir de Solferino*, Basting became greatly impressed by the possibilities which were offered by this book. At the request of Dunant himself, he translated it into Dutch, which came out in April 1863 with a preface and an epilogue. The whole of the year 1863 was to be dominated by the Red Cross for Basting. In August he was Dutch representative at the Berlin Statistical Congress and before that he had corresponded with Dunant and offered to support the idea of the neutralisation of the voluntary aid personnel and the wounded, if Dunant wished to bring this point up during the Congress. The latter did not take this seriously, since he did not see how a Congress devoted to statistics could possibly be an instrument for his ideas. When, however, the congress for charity which was also to be held in Berlin, was cancelled (Basting was the first to inform Geneva of the set-back), he seized Basting's proposal with both hands, because it could give him the opportunity of making his ideas widely known in Germany. Dunant went alone, and "voluntarily", to Berlin, and the other members of the Committee of Five received the news that he had brought up the question of neutralization before the Congress without any enthusiasm. His ideas already went further than the programme which the Geneva Committee wanted to submit to an international meeting. Dunant thought of neutrality when he met Dr. Basting and his wife in Berlin. This meeting was to be of historical importance for the Red Cross.

Basting was secretary of the 4th section dealing with death statistics of military and civil personnel, and Dunant was of course only an observer and had a merely indirect influence on the debates. After the first session, he felt a little disappointed because he had not found as much response as he had hoped. The subsequent story of the Congress and the role of Dunant in it is well known.

We want, however, to mention once more the part taken by Dr. Basting. He had realized at once the value of the idea of neutralisation and stimulated Dunant to follow his own line in Berlin, without thinking of the scepticism at home. Together they formulated the three points of the Berlin Congress, in which the neutralisation of the medical and hospital personnel and the

wounded is stated as being highly desirable.<sup>1</sup> A report on this question was translated into German by Basting and read in a session of the 4th section. The incident on the bridge over the river Spree, where the manuscript of this report nearly went astray is well known. This is how Mrs. Basting tells the story in a letter to the President of the International Committee of the Red Cross in Geneva, on November 28, 1870, shortly after the death of her husband :

“ There are some details about Berlin, such as the piece of paper, on which was written the proposal which Basting wanted to submit to the Congress and which was blown away by a sudden gust of wind on the bridge over the Spree, just as he was translating it from German into French for Dunant ; fortunately a beggar happened to pick it up and gave it back to Basting, who could not otherwise have submitted the proposal, since he was unable to express himself sufficiently well in German. I always saw the hand of God in this incident, intervening through a beggar in such a way. I still recall how Dunant wept for joy when the proposal was accepted ».<sup>2</sup>

The importance of the three “ Berlin points ” distributed to the Governments without the knowledge of the other members of the Geneva Committee had been quite well understood by Dr. Basting. On one of the copies (in the archives of the Netherlands Red Cross) he annotated : “ This document has been formulated without the knowledge of the Geneva Committee by its representative Henry Dunant and myself and signed by him. At his own expense (and

<sup>1</sup> The three points included in the circular letter of September 15, 1863 written and sent from Berlin by Dunant, can be summarized as follows :

a) European governments give their full support to the National Committees,

b) Governments declare that henceforth military medical personnel and those dependent on them, including voluntary first-aid workers be regarded as neutral by belligerents,

c) Governments give all transport facilities to personnel and charitable supplies sent by these Societies to territory over-run by war.

<sup>2</sup> Translated from the original French text which reads as follows : « Il y a des détails de Berlin, comme d'un papier sur lequel la proposition que Basting voulut faire au congrès était écrit en allemand, qui s'envolait par un coup de vent sur le pont de la Sprée, au moment què Basting voulait le traduire pour M. Dunant ; un pauvre mendiant qui se trouvait par hasard là ramassa le papier et le rendit à Basting, qui dépourvu de ce document n'aurait pu faire la proposition, ne sachant alors pas s'exprimer assez dans la langue allemande. J'y ai toujours vu la bénédiction de Dieu, d'entrevenir par moyen d'un mendiant et par une telle bagatelle. Je me rappelle encore les larmes de joie de Dunant quand la proposition fut acceptée ».

this was considerable because of the urgent character of the matter) Dunant had 500 copies printed which he distributed immediately in Berlin and sent to the governments which had already received the first memorandum from the Committee. Only because of the proposals in this document, the governments sent delegates to Geneva. If it had not been made the summons for an official conference he would have remained a "vox clamans in deserto". And without the following declaration of neutrality the aid societies could not have been ready for action in war time, nor could their aims have been attained. Even during the conference of 1863, the Geneva Committee did not understand the importance of neutralisation, so that General Dufour made a proposal to leave the point out. I had to stress that we had come to Geneva only for this purpose and not for the foundation of an aid society belonging to the domain of charity. When other delegates supported my declaration (those of Prussia, Baden, Austria, etc.) the question of neutralisation was discussed and the outcome of our debates were "wishes" communicated to the governments. These wishes are the basis of the Geneva Convention which has recently been discussed in Paris (1864)".

The International Conference in Geneva, in October 1863, immediately followed the Berlin Congress. In a personal and confidential letter, Dunant described Basting's part in this Conference to Dr. Haje, of Amsterdam, who published a book on the beginning of the Red Cross (letter of June 1896) :

"Already at the Geneva Congress, in 1863, he had had almost to quarrel in session with Mr. M. (Moynier), to force him to submit the question of "neutralisation" for discussion at the last meeting, and it was then decided that the Congress would express its wishes accordingly apart from the resolutions. Without Basting, who was supported by Lœffler, my idea of "neutralisation" would not have been considered, in view of Mr. M.'s opposition. He carried his hostility to this so far that when I returned (to Geneva) in October 1863 from the Berlin Statistical Congress, he treated the idea as being impossible. At the first meeting of the Geneva Committee of Five, after my return from Berlin, Dresden and Vienna, I asked Mr. M. (to whom I had of course sent my circular from Berlin) : "Well, what do you think of my idea of neutralisation?" His answer was : "We considered that you had asked for the impossible" (sic). But, when Mr. M. saw, during the last meeting of the

Conference on October 29, 1863, that Basting, with his Dutch tenacity, was firmly standing up to him and that he was upheld in this by the assembly's murmur of approval, he quickly trimmed his sails accordingly. He is not a lawyer for nothing.

As for myself, I could never have done what Basting did ; I was too frightened of compromising all that had already been obtained (the resolutions) and besides, General Dufour and the two doctors (Appia and Maunoir) thought like Mr. M."<sup>1</sup>

After 1863 Basting had to return to his daily job as a medical officer and since then we do not find him participating on the international level of the Red Cross movement. He became on the other hand the fervent champion of a national aid society in his own country. He began writing a pamphlet entitled "Appeal to my country", in April 1864, in which he demanded the founding of a Netherlands aid society. In this he rightly mentioned how much Denmark and Prussia had to deplore the non-existence of such a society during the war of Schleswig-Holstein of 1864. But after all it lasted until 1867, before King William III founded the Netherlands Red Cross. In Belgium the development was more rapid : even before the Geneva Convention, an aid society had been founded. Basting visited this society and reported his findings on his return home. Together with Captain van de Velde he was nominated honorary member of this sister society.

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<sup>1</sup> Translated from the original French text which reads as follows :

« Déjà, au congrès de 1863 à Genève il a fallu, en séance, qu'il se disputât presque avec M. M. pour l'obliger à mettre la question de « neutralisation » en discussion dans la dernière séance, et c'est alors que l'on a décidé que le congrès émettrait des vœux outre les résolutions.

Sans Basting, soutenu par Loeffler, mon idée de « neutralisation des blessés » n'eut pas été prise en considération, vu que M. M. y était trop hostile. Il l'était à un tel point que, le même mois (octobre 1863) quand je suis revenu du congrès de statistique de Berlin il traitait cette idée d'impossibilité : lors de la première réunion du comité genevois des 5 membres, après mon retour de Berlin, Dresde, Vienne, je demandais en séance, à M. M. (auquel j'avais envoyé, bien entendu, ma circulaire de Berlin) « Eh bien, qu'avez-vous pensé de mon idée de neutralisation ? » M. M. me répondit : « Nous avons pensé que vous aviez demandé une chose impossible (sic). Mais, quand il a vu, dans la dernière séance des conférences, le 29 octobre 1863, que Basting, avec sa ténacité hollandaise, lui tenait tête fermement et fortement soutenu par le murmur approbateur de l'Assemblée, il a lestement retourné sa barque. Il n'est pas avocat pour rien.

Moi, je ne pouvais pas faire ce que Basting a fait, j'avais trop peur de compromettre ce qui avait déjà été obtenu (les résolutions) et d'ailleurs le Général Dufour et les deux médecins pensaient comme M. M., je ne pouvais pas insister comme Basting a fait. »

## TWO GREAT FIGURES IN RED CROSS HISTORY

In 1867 Basting was one of the Dutch Government delegates at the First International Red Cross Conference in Paris, where he was secretary of the jury for awarding prizes for stretchers and ambulances. The foundation of the first local Red Cross Committee (The Hague, Utrecht, Bergen op Zoom in which garrison he had worked since 1866) was greatly encouraged by Basting who, in publications and at meetings, advocated the cause of organized voluntary aid. Although there was no direct menace of war in the Netherlands at that time, people of experience felt that "prevention was better than cure". In one of his publications, Basting made a plea for the so-called removal of the wounded in war, the system that had proved so useful during the wars of 1859, 1864 and 1866. It goes without saying that Basting saw a big task ahead for local Red Cross committees if this system was to be more generally adopted.

When the Franco-Prussian war broke out, Basting was already seriously ill, but he still gave his valuable advice about the equipment to be used in ambulances, etc., while through his international relations he remained in contact with what was going on in Europe. When his English friend John Furley reported on his journey to the continent in order to organise British voluntary aid on the battlefields, Basting passed this information on through the newspapers to the Dutch public, thus disseminating the Red Cross idea.

On September 24, 1870, Dr. Basting died at the age of 54. The young Netherlands Red Cross was then just engaged in its first period of activity, serving the ideal that Basting had roused in the country. On his grave, the society put a stone in memory of the promoter of the Geneva Convention. He had lived up to the device of his home town Enkhuizen: "Candide et constanter", a device that could well be also that of the Red Cross.

Mrs. Basting went back to Gorinchem, where she served in the local women's committee for the Red Cross until her death in 1896. She had always been a more businesslike person than her husband and it seems that she had always kept a rather objective attitude towards Henry Dunant. At the end of her life, she renewed the correspondence with Dunant in Heiden. It is worth drawing attention to two of Mrs. Basting's letters to Dunant.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> They can be found in the work by Alexis François, *Le Berceau de la Croix-Rouge*, Geneva, 1918, pp. 320-323.



*J. H. C. Basting (1817-1870)*



(Photo H. G. L. Schimmelpemingh, La Haye)

*C. W. M. van de Velde (1818-1898)*

The reaction of Dunant to these letters of the old lady who had been with him years ago in Berlin during the critical period of endeavour after Solferino can be seen in a letter to Dr. Haje : " Mrs. Basting's letters opened my eyes to an astonishing degree. She had even been convinced herself by the story that I had bought the manuscript of *Un Souvenir de Solferino* from a French officer ! You can see by this how far malice can go " <sup>1</sup>.

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If Dr. Basting had been first of all a Dutch military surgeon with a keen insight into the essential value of the programme of the Red Cross for the practice of his profession quite another sort of promoter of Dunant's idea was Captain Charles William Meredith van de Velde. Born in 1818, he was destined for a career as a naval officer. During that time of his life, he developed his talent for designing and painting and became director of the Topographical Institute in Batavia (Djakarta). For reasons of health he had to leave the military service and in 1844 began the wandering life of the artist and philanthropist. Van de Velde was in Palestine where he painted in water-colours and carried out topographic works, and in Cape Colony, where he supported the mission for French seamen. (For this activity he received the Legion of Honour.) As a representative of an international society he visited the oppressed Maronites in the Near East and so we are not at all surprised to find him in Geneva as friend and early supporter of Henry Dunant.

In August 1863 van de Velde gave his address as : Maison Dunant, Puits St. Pierre, Geneva. In a letter to Basting he describes a discussion he had with their common friend Dunant. When van de Velde had said that Dunant and his supporters should at once establish a centre for practical aid in the Polish-Russian war, Dunant had replied : " My work is to create committees all over the world which can make preparations for the big world-war of which the Prophets are speaking, and which is nearer than one

<sup>1</sup> Translated from the original French text which reads as follows : « Les lettres de M<sup>me</sup> Basting m'ont ouvert les yeux à un point étonnant. On lui avait persuadé à elle-même, que j'avais acheté le manuscrit du *Souvenir de Solferino* d'un officier français. Vous pouvez voir par là jusqu'où va la méchanceté ».

realizes". Van de Velde thinks this too much theory, and misses in Dunant the element of self-denial.

In 1863, van de Velde was one of the delegates in the international conference where the proposals of the Committee of Five (and as we have already seen above) were discussed. As observer, who had to learn much himself, he did not take an active part in the discussions but several times he could bring the delegates back to the more practical questions, as was the case when "Mr. van de Velde asked that consideration be given to one thing which had been rather forgotten until then, namely, that before the close of the meeting a decision should be reached upon the procedure to be adopted regarding the foundation in every country of such committees, instituted in theory by the resolutions of the Conference."<sup>1</sup>

In Geneva, one realized the usefulness of this Dutchman, internationally experienced and free to travel at his own expense. Already in 1864 we see van de Velde as a delegate of the International Committee going to Denmark, at the same time that Dr. Appia visited the opposing side, Prussia. In Denmark, van de Velde did not find the reception he had hoped for. The aid society did not like a foreigner to interfere in its work (which was moreover organized very effectively) and the military authorities mistrusted the whole idea of voluntary auxiliary ambulance personnel on the battlefield and between the lines. The many discussions van de Velde had with the highest Danish authorities were not very satisfactory. We must keep in mind that the Geneva Convention was not yet a fact (it was to be adopted later on in the year) and the delegate of Geneva could only express wishes for a more or less private conference. And secondly the situation of Denmark was not such as to expect great enthusiasm for any other matter than the nation's troubles.

That van de Velde had been a real predecessor of the ICRC delegate of today can be seen from the report on his mission to Denmark :

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<sup>1</sup> Translated from the original French text which reads as follows : « M. van de Velde demande que l'on songe à une chose qui a été un peu oubliée jusqu'ici, savoir à se concerter avant de se séparer sur la manière dont il faudra procéder pour créer pratiquement, dans chaque pays, ces comités qu'instituent en théorie les résolutions de la Conférence. »

## TWO GREAT FIGURES IN RED CROSS HISTORY

The first part of my task was to obtain information ; the second part was to identify myself with this brave people struck by the scourge of war. When I say, identify myself, I do not mean this politically, but in the moral sense of the word and from the point of view of the suffering, of the anguish of those with parents and friends in the army who were exposed night and day to enemy fire or to the pernicious fevers brought on by the physical hardships of the soldier's life in the field.<sup>1</sup>

On his return from Copenhagen, van de Velde went to Vienna, where he discussed with the leaders of the " Patriotischer Hilfs-Verein " the possibilities of that Society co-operating with the Committee in Geneva. At the end of his report, he was able to state that a new committee had been founded in order to establish contact between the Hilfs-Verein and Geneva. So we see van de Velde closely linked, on behalf of the International Committee, with the development of two of the oldest Red Cross Societies.

After these missions, we do not hear about van de Velde until 1870. He lived in Brussels and devoted himself to his art, painting water-colours, when the war of 1870 broke out. He immediately offered his services to the Netherlands Red Cross and at the same time asked the advice of Moynier, President of the ICRC. The Central Board of the Netherlands Red Cross entrusted him (one of its honorary members) with an ambulance which was to be set up in the neighbourhood of Paris. From there, the ambulance was directed to Versailles and with the help of the local committee, van de Velde was able to install his Dutch hospital in the famous palace. To Moynier he reports on September 17 :

At the request of the Préfet Mr. Charton and with the enthusiastic support of the local Versailles committee, I installed myself in Louis XIV's great palace, where at the present moment we are already dealing with twenty cases of typhoid fever (in the great hall of the marshals) and five wounded in another hall. To turn the available space in this vast building into quarantine quarters with medical services, etc. has been

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<sup>1</sup> Translated from the original French text which reads as follows : « Me renseigner était bien la première partie de la tâche que j'avais à accomplir : m'identifier avec ce brave peuple frappé par le fléau de la guerre était la seconde. M'identifier, je m'explique, non pas dans le sens politique, mais dans le sens moral du mot, et au point de vue des souffrances, des angoisses de ceux qui avaient dans l'armée leurs parents, leurs amis, exposés nuit et jour au feu de l'ennemi ou aux fièvres pernicieuses que développent les misères physiques de la vie du soldat en campagne. »

my biggest task which has been occupying me for the past three days. This would have been impossible without the considerable help which I received from the local committee. Now, all is as well as can be expected and I hope, with the devoted assistance of my surgeons and doctors, and in the healthy air of our surroundings, that the sick and wounded will rapidly recover their health in cases in which a cure is possible. I am in the process of increasing the present number of beds from 135 to 300. At the same time, and in agreement with the enthusiastic president of the local committee, Mr. Horace de la Roche, we are forming a mobile ambulance for the fighting around Versailles. Here I am then in the middle of doing a fine and important work. May God support and protect us! Mr. Rossceur St. Hilaire is my Protestant chaplain. Our many devoted friends will be overjoyed to hear this. But, would you tell them that I recommend this work to their benevolent support. We are expecting the Prussians in a day or two. It is said that the King will install himself at Versailles. It is not likely to be in the palace, neutralised as it is by my ambulances and contaminated by twenty cases of typhoid".<sup>1</sup>

A serious incident took place when the Prussians occupied Versailles: their chief medical officer, Dr. Kirchner, claimed the palace and the Dutch ambulance. Although this was not in accordance with the Geneva Convention, van de Velde had to content himself with continuing the work of the Dutch hospital as a unit of the large German hospital. From his letters, we learn how

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<sup>1</sup> Translated from the original French text which reads as follows: « C'est sur la prière du Préfet M. Charton et avec le concours zélé du Comité local de Versailles que je me suis installé au grand château de Louis XIV où à l'heure qu'il est déjà 20 fièvres typhoïdes (dans la grande salle des maréchaux) et 5 blessés (dans une autre salle) sont confiés à nos soins. Convertir les salles disponibles dans cet immense bâtiment en lazaret avec tout son service médical etc. etc. c'était la tâche importante et gigantesque dont j'ai eu à m'occuper les 3 derniers jours. Sans le concours considérable du Comité local, cela aurait été une impossibilité. Maintenant tout marche pour le mieux; et j'ose espérer qu'avec le dévouement de mes chirurgiens et médecins, et dans l'air salubre de l'endroit les malades et blessés retrouveront rapidement leur santé, pour autant que guérison soit possible. Je suis en train de compléter notre nombre de lits (aujourd'hui 135) au chiffre de 300. En même temps, et d'accord avec le zélé président du Comité local, M. Horace de la Roche, nous nous mettons en mesure de former une petite ambulance volante pour les combats dans les environs de Versailles. Me voilà donc lancé dans une œuvre belle et importante; Que le Secours d'en-haut nous y soutienne et nous bénisse! M. Rossceur St. Hilaire est mon aumônier protestant. Nos nombreux et dévoués amis se réjouiront quand ils l'apprendront. Mais veuillez leur dire que je recommande cette œuvre à leur bienveillant secours. Nous attendons dans 1 ou 2 jours les Prussiens. On dit que le Roi s'établira à Versailles. Certes pas au Château neutralisé par mon ambulance et empesté par mes 20 fièvres typhoïdes. »

difficult human relations could be within the large palace filled with wounded and the military. The atmosphere in the Dutch quarters and the skill of its doctors and personnel however proved to be good enough to make Dr. Kirchner and his staff revise their attitude and in the end they tried to get on a more friendly footing with the Dutchmen. Van de Velde described the working of his ambulance in a small booklet and pointed out that his experience had taught that the sending of international ambulances to the front was undesirable. In the third line, behind the front, such ambulances could do much good ; between the lines, they gave rise to all sorts of provocations. He had experienced this himself when trying to go through the lines in order to get some foodstuffs and other goods that had been sent from England.

When the war was over, van de Velde resumed his wanderings ; he lived alternately in Geneva, Fribourg and Besançon, devoting his time to art and to humanitarian work. As a member of the " église libre " in France, he practised Christian charity in a very unselfish way. In 1898 Charles William Meredith van de Velde died in Menton. When Dunant heard of the death of this friend of his younger days, he wrote to Dr. Haje : " I am announcing the death of my best Dutch friend, Captain van de Velde, whom I thought had died long ago. He was very devoted at the beginning of the Work. He was in Denmark during the Schleswig war, where he was not always everywhere well received. However, the old Queen of Denmark wept when van de Velde told her that he had come from the Geneva Committee on behalf of the wounded." <sup>1</sup>

**J. H. ROMBACH**

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<sup>1</sup> Translated from the original French text which reads as follows :  
 « Je vous envoie l'annonce de la mort du capitaine van de Velde, mon meilleur ami hollandais, que je croyais mort depuis longtemps. Il a été très dévoué dans les commencements de l'Œuvre. Il a été en Danemark lors de la guerre de Schleswig, où il n'avait pas été très bien reçu par tout le monde. Cependant la vieille reine de Danemark s'est mise à pleurer quand van de Velde lui a dit qu'il venait de la part d'un comité de Genève pour les blessés ».

# INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

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## THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE IN ALGERIA

### Work in the medical field

The ICRC actively developed its relief operation in Algeria in June. Acute medical and sanitary problems are facing its delegates, especially in Oran. As reported earlier the ICRC has sent a medical team of three to the Moslem city of Oran, where medicines, surgical instruments and equipment, and dietetic milk for new-born children, are most urgently needed. Following urgent requests by its delegates on the spot the ICRC immediately despatched by air two tons of dietetic powdered milk : Two further shipments were also sent by the French Red Cross, one of eight crates of sugared concentrated milk, the other of one and a half tons of standardised milk.

Dr. J.-L. de Chastonay, medical adviser of the ICRC delegation in Algeria, sent a first shipment of medicines to Oran. This was shortly followed by a large quantity of medicines sent from Paris on June 5th by the French Red Cross including antibiotics, ophtalmic ointment and special medicines. Others shipments are now on their way to Oran. On June 14th, a special plane took off from Geneva for Algiers with a cargo of medicines and medical equipment valued at 40,000 Swiss Francs.

From Geneva, the ICRC has now sent to Algiers four different shipments of medicines, vaccines and equipment for blood transfusion, totalling 1,400 kilograms (about 3,000 lb.) and valued at 45,000 Swiss francs.

It will be recalled that four doctors and a male nurse are now engaged in the ICRC relief action in Algeria : they are Dr. J.-L. de Chastonay (Algiers) and Dr. A. Foletti (Relizane Hospital), and Dr. R. A. Egli, Dr. U. Denzler and Mr. P. Frey (male nurse) in the Moslem city of Oran.

As a result of a second plane leaving to repatriate Swiss nationals from Algeria, the International Committee of the Red Cross has been able to send out a further cargo of relief supplies comprising 2,500 kilos of semi-skimmed milk and laboratory equipment for the blood transfusion centres. The value of this consignment was 21,000 Swiss francs.

The French Red Cross has also sent a further supply of milk and medical supplies to Dr. Robert-André EGLI, the ICRC doctor working in Oran. These relief supplies, however, are still far from meeting all the needs.

Dr. Jean-Louis de Chastonay, head of the ICRC medical mission in Algeria, recently returned to Geneva where he reported on the work which is being carried out principally in the Moslem quarters of Algiers and Oran. The ICRC doctors are working in frequently difficult conditions but have rendered services to the populations of the two towns which have been greatly appreciated. They have carried out over a hundred blood transfusions and organized a blood bank in Oran. Dr. de Chastonay has also distributed large quantities of medical supplies, antibiotics, vaccines and equipment valued at 85,000 Swiss francs.

Another ICRC doctor, Dr. Aurelio Foletti, has been working for a month at the hospital at Relizane in Oranie, where he had to treat a number of people wounded during disturbances there. Most frequently performed operations were extractions of bullets and grenade splinters. He also did thirteen laparotomies for bullet wounds and a number of skin grafts for the treatment of burns. Dr. Foletti has also just returned to Geneva.

### **Help to regrouped populations**

The ICRC has now taken steps in a new direction, in favour of regrouped populations in Algeria, estimated at more than 2 millions persons. Its action started in the Bougie area, where a shipment of 30 tons of powdered milk and 4 tons of cheese, a gift of the Swiss Confederation, arrived on June 12. It is now being distributed in the Setif and Tizi Ouzou areas.

In addition, a specialist in international transport, Mr. P. Borgognon, has visited Bougie in order to prepare a new and

important move in the ICRC feeding operation in favour of regrouped populations. It is hoped that a cargo of 5,000 tons of American surplus food will shortly reach this port.

ICRC delegate Jacques de Heller has taken delivery at the port of Bougie of 30 tons of powdered milk and 4 tons of cheese for the regrouped populations. He directed the supplies to the Setif and Tizi-Ouzou regions where they are being distributed under ICRC supervision.

The French Red Cross mobile nursing teams which work in cooperation with the ICRC and distribute relief supplies forwarded by the latter, are continuing their activity in the regroupment centres. The ICRC has received a report from one of these teams working in the Tenes sector. This document shows that the work of the Red Cross is greatly appreciated by the population and it finishes in these words :

“ In spite of the pressure of work and the inevitable dissatisfaction that lack of endless resources and time make it impossible for us ever to do enough to help everybody, our enthusiasm knows no bounds and equal attention is paid to every camp. We constantly marvel at the people’s confidence in and friendship for the Red Cross and this we gratefully accept.”

### **Tracing missing persons**

The ICRC has received and is still receiving daily requests to try and find missing persons in Algeria, chiefly Europeans. The ICRC has made several requests for information to the Provisional Executive at Rocher-Noir. So far no favourable results have been attained, although M. Roger Vust, ICRC delegate, personally visited the Baraki and Mouzaiaville area, in the Algiers Department, for the same purpose. His enquiries have yielded no results.

On the other hand, in the Bougie area a Swiss serving in the French Foreign Legion recently captured by the ALN was freed on June 8th and handed over to Mr. Jacques de Heller, ICRC delegate.

The ICRC is continuing its efforts to find missing persons who are presumed to be victims of kidnapping. It has broadcast further appeals on Radio-Alger on behalf of these people, who are mostly Europeans, but so far it has received no positive reply. The ICRC

delegate in Algiers, Mr. Roger Vust, has still not obtained a meeting with Si Azzeddine, the FLN official responsible for the autonomous zone of Algiers, with whom he wished to study this problem.

### **Help to detainees**

The ICRC has also continued its action in favour of detained persons, chiefly Europeans. Representatives of the ICRC have visited nine places of detention, in particular the Camps of Beni Messous, the Police School of Hussein-Dey and Tefeschoun, the Tizi-Ouzou, Maison Carrée and Rouiba hospital in the Algiers area, and in the Oran area, the transit centre of Ardaillon College and Arcole Camp.

The military internment centre of Ksar Thir where about one thousand Moslems captured in combat are still detained was also visited by the ICRC delegate.

### **Mission to Rocher-Noir**

Mr. Pierre Gaillard, delegate, has returned to Algeria where he has carried out countless missions since the beginning of 1955. He contacted the authorities at Rocher-Noir to define the activity of the ICRC after self-determination.

### **An ICRC Appeal**

On June 16, 1962, the ICRC transmitted the following radio appeal :

« Profoundly moved by the distressful acts of cruelty taking place in Algeria and by the violence which accompanies them, the International Committee of the Red Cross in Geneva makes a most serious and pressing appeal on behalf at least of the wounded and sick. These must at all costs be spared. The Geneva Conventions and even more than these, the elementary principles of humanity, confer upon hospitals and all other similar establishments an inviolable and sacred character. To do harm to these is to condemn defenceless human beings to increased suffering and even to death. The International Committee of the Red Cross therefore solemnly calls upon those resorting to force in Algeria rigorously to refrain from making such attacks, for which there can be no excuse. »

SUNDRY ACTIVITIES

**News Items**

**Repatriation of Chinese Fishermen**

Twenty Chinese fishermen from Hainan in the Tonkin Golf, reported missing and later found in Da Nang (formerly named Tourane, in the centre of Vietnam), are now on their way to their own country. The Chinese Red Cross in Peking had asked the ICRC to try and find the men. The ICRC delegate was given permission to visit them by the Government of the Republic of Vietnam. As their boat was no longer seaworthy when they reached the Vietnam coast, the ICRC delegate secured a junk for them. It is on board this craft that they are now going back to China.

**The ICRC in Laos**

Dr. Jürg Baer, doctor delegate of the International Committee of the Red Cross has now returned to Vientiane from the Plaine des Jarres, where he had gone at the end of May. During his visit to Northern Laos, Dr. Baer discussed humanitarian questions, especially the exchange of family news between persons separated as a result of events, the regrouping of Laotian families and the conditions of American and Philippine prisoners, with the Khang Khay authorities. Dr. Baer also delivered some letters intended for American prisoners.

Later, accompanied by Princess Oun Kham, a member of the Women's Committee of the Laotian Red Cross, Dr. Jürg Baer went to Sayaboury, the chief town of Sayaboury province, on the right bank of the Mekong. There, he distributed relief supplies to refugees belonging to Meo tribes. These supplies were largely made up of clothing, rice, soya and rubber boots given by Switzerland, which are greatly appreciated on the muddy ground of this region. The provincial section of the Laotian Red Cross had already organised distributions of relief supplies forwarded by the ICRC.

It has not always been possible, however, to apply the system of supervision generally adopted during distributions of relief supplies. As the Meo refugees frequently lose their control cards, a new and more effective system is used: those who have received their share are marked, frequently with a cross, on the stomach.

Dr. Baer took the opportunity of his trip to Sayaboury to hand over condensed milk and rice for the sick and wounded in the hospital of "Operation Brotherhood" which is supported by the Junior Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines.

As Mr. Muralti, the new delegate to Laos, has had to delay his departure from Geneva, Dr. Baer, who left the country on July 2, will be temporarily replaced by Mr. Robert Gouy, a member of the ICRC delegation in Japan.

### **The ICRC in Leopoldville**

ICRC delegate G. C. Senn is now in Leopoldville to contact the authorities. He has taken numerous steps regarding internees and political detainees whom the ICRC might be able to help.

The ICRC delegate is also dealing with the regroupment of families dispersed by last year's disturbances in North Katanga. At the time, many women and children were evacuated to Elisabethville while the men remained in the bush.

### **The enquiry into the death of G. Olivet**

The following communiqué dated June 8, 1962, was published jointly by the United Nations Organization and the International Committee of the Red Cross :

The Commission of Investigation into the death of Georges Olivet, the representative of the International Committee of the Red Cross, and his two companions, volunteers from the Elisabethville Red Cross, has concluded its work.

It will be remembered that last February the United Nations Acting Secretary General and the International Committee of the Red Cross agreed to the appointment of a Commission to carry out an impartial and entirely independent investigation into the circumstances of the tragic death of the Red Cross representatives who were killed on 13 December, 1961, during the fighting in Elisabethville.

The members of the Commission were :

Judge Björn Kjellin, President of the Malmö (Sweden) Court of Appeal,

Professor Leopold Breitenecker, Director of the Vienna Institute of Forensic Medicine, and

Colonel Hans Roost, of the Swiss Army.

## INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

The Commission met in Geneva on 9 February, 1962, to examine the available documentary material and receive its instructions and then went straight to Elisabethville where it started work the next day, 10 February.

The Commission had been given a prior assurance that it would receive every facility for carrying out the delicate task entrusted to it. It was thus able to settle down to work without delay and after acquainting itself with the results of the investigation carried out by the local authorities, it started its own enquiries, examinations and questioning. Since, however, the necessary facilities for a complete examination of the bodies were not available in Elisabethville, the Commission decided to have them removed to Vienna where the investigations were continued. The technical medical investigations, ballistic studies and spectrochemical examinations were carried out under Professor Breitenecker. Once these examinations were finished, the members of the Commission of Investigation met again in Geneva on 4 June to draw up their final report, which today, 8 June, 1962, has been formally submitted by the Commission to the International Committee of the Red Cross and the United Nations where it will be carefully examined.

The United Nations Secretariat and the International Committee of the Red Cross thanked the members of the Commission for the thoroughness and conscientiousness with which they had carried out their task.

### **Repatriation of Vietnamese Refugees**

The repatriation of Vietnamese refugees in Thailand has been continuing regularly since the beginning of 1960, which marked the departure of the first boat. In June 1962, 55 vessels transported 34,209 people to the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam. By virtue of an agreement concluded in August 1959 in Rangoon between the Red Cross Societies of Thailand and the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, the two Societies assumed the practical organisation of these repatriation operations.

### **Prison visits in Rhodesia and Nyasaland**

The ICRC delegate in Rhodesia and Nyasaland, Mr. G. C. Senn, recently visited the prisons of Bwana Mkubwa in Northern Rhodesia. He also went to the central prisons at Zomba and Domasi in Nyasaland, where he had talks with the detainees.

He has also visited the Salisbury Remand Prison in Southern Rhodesia.

## Near East

Following the closing of its delegation in Egypt at the beginning of 1962, the ICRC has been active in the Near East, particularly on behalf of the victims of the Palestine conflict.

For many years the ICRC has been organizing the exchange of family messages between Arab refugees in the Gaza strip and their relatives in Israel. This exchange of news is effected via the Egyptian Red Crescent and Magen David Adom, the institution which in Israel assumes the duties of a National Red Cross Society. The messages are exchanged through the Central Tracing Agency of the ICRC in Geneva. During the first six months of 1962, 1101 messages were exchanged in this way.

The Red Crescent of the United Arab Republic is giving effective co-operation to the ICRC with regard to tracing of missing persons in Egypt as well as with regard to humanitarian assistance to certain categories of stateless persons, particularly those who are interned in Egypt.

## Compensation for the victims of pseudo-medical experiments

A new mission of the International Committee of the Red Cross went to Hungary at the beginning of June. Consisting of Mr. Ernest Fischer, former head of the ICRC delegation in Hungary in 1956 and 1957, of Dr. Oscar Caprez, doctor-delegate, and of Mr. Jean-Pierre Maunoir, delegate, it chiefly examined a new series of cases of victims of pseudo-medical experiments carried out in German concentration camps under the Nazi regime.

At the request of the Government of the German Federal Republic, the ICRC had accepted to act as intermediary for the transmission of financial assistance which that Government wishes to give to the victims of these experiments living in countries with which it does not maintain diplomatic relations. A first ICRC mission went to Hungary in March 1961 ; together with the doctor-delegate of the Hungarian Red Cross, it examined 63 cases and submitted its observations to a neutral expert commission consisting of doctors and lawyers. Meeting in Geneva in August 1961, that commission decided for each case upon an amount in proportion to the extent of suffering endured, it being however understood that no financial indemnity could fully compensate for such ordeals. The ICRC was then able to transmit the amounts placed at its disposal by the German Government to Hungary.

The mission which the ICRC has just sent to Hungary is dealing with 108 new cases which are undergoing a similar procedure : the delegates of the ICRC and of the Hungarian Red Cross will draw

up a statement in each case which will be submitted to the neutral expert commission. This body will subsequently meet in Geneva.

### **Building of an artificial limb factory**

Whilst passing through Budapest, the delegates visited the artificial limb factory recently built out of funds provided partly by the ICRC and also by various donors. They noted that major work is finished and that the building already has a roof. It is hoped that the factory will be ready to function at the beginning of 1963, so as to improve the equipping of Hungarian invalids. Several machines supplied by the ICRC have already been installed.

The establishment of this factory had been the subject of an agreement made in October 1957 between the Hungarian Minister of Health, the Hungarian Red Cross and the ICRC. This agreement also arranged for the exchange of technicians between Hungary and the German Democratic Republic. Thus specialists of the artificial limb factory of Eisenberg-Künigssee (Thuringia) attended courses in Budapest, after which Hungarian technicians in their turn went to that well equipped factory.

### **Reuniting of families**

The ICRC mission to Hungary during June also dealt with various other questions, in particular with the reuniting of families dispersed as a result of the events of 1956-57 in Hungary. Since the beginning of 1962, 33 children and 6 adults have been authorized to leave Hungary to rejoin their relatives in Western countries. The delegates also dealt with a number of Hungarians who had fled to the West and who expressed the wish to return to their own country.

### **Visits to penal establishments**

As reported elsewhere, Mr. Léopold Boissier, President of the ICRC, accompanied by Mr. Herbert G. Beckh, recently paid a visit to Rumania and Bulgaria at the invitation of the two countries' National Red Cross Societies. While passing through Belgrade, he was also the guest of the Yugoslav Red Cross.

Mr. Boissier then returned to Geneva, leaving Mr. Beckh to carry out a short mission in Yugoslavia. He first of all had talks with Dr. Milosevič, Secretary-General of the Yugoslav Red Cross, on questions of mutual interest to the two institutions. Accom-

panied by Professor Jekič, president of the Serbian Red Cross, the delegate also went to the Secretariat of State for Internal Affairs, where he met Mr. Lenart, Head of section, and Mr. Popovič, Head of the Department of Penal Administration.

Mr. Beckh handed over to them the ICRC reports drawn up on the basis of his visits at the end of 1961, and in return he received some interesting information on the application of the new law on penal administration from which it appears that Yugoslavia is endeavouring to liberalize detention conditions in every possible way. Following a big amnesty, most of the detainees, who can be considered as political prisoners, have been released.

The Secretariat of State agreed to the delegate visiting places of detention of his choice during his stay in Yugoslavia and Mr. Beckh went to the penal establishments of Pozarevač in Serbia and Valtura Pula in Croatia. He was accompanied by the president of the Serbian Red Cross, Professor Jekič and later by Mrs Zivanovič of the Croatian Red Cross. At Pozarevač, the delegate met Mr. Popovič and at Valtura Pula Mr. Sobotincič, Head of the Department for Penal Administration in Croatia.

The aim of these visits was in the first place to observe the effects of the amnesty and of the application of the new law, particularly with regard to the fifteen days holiday to which each detainee has the right and to the award of a supplementary holiday of eight days to be spent with his family. These latter provisions apply to certain of the detainees and amongst them to political detainees. The delegate noticed that at Valtura Pula, an establishment without bars, the detainees work like other agricultural workers and at the end of the day can leave the establishment freely.

During the course of these visits, Mr. Beckh had the opportunity of talking, without witnesses to six political prisoners at Pozarevač and four at Valtura Pula.

### **The I.T.S. on television**

During the course of a television transmission from Warsaw, a former detainee of the Auschwitz concentration camp warmly praised the activity of the International Tracing Service (I.T.S.). He explained how, thanks to the efforts made by it, he was able to find his family now living in the USSR and of whom he had not heard for 19 years.

The International Tracing Service at Arolsen (German Federal Republic) has been administered by the International Committee of the Red Cross since 1955. It works closely with the Central Tracing Agency of the ICRC in Geneva.

### **BBC film on the Red Cross**

The British Broadcasting Corporation is currently shooting a film in Geneva on the International Red Cross and its work. This documentary is intended for television services throughout the world on the occasion of the Red Cross Centenary in 1963.

The film lasts 60 minutes and will trace the history of the movement inspired by Henry Dunant and his book, *A Memory of Solferino*. The Red Cross will be shown through the conflicts and natural disasters as a symbol of unity in a world too frequently torn apart by violence and hatred.

Under the direction of Mr. Alan Sleath, a number of shots have been taken of the headquarters of the ICRC and of the League. The BBC will release the film in different language versions and anybody who wishes for further information should write to BBC Television Centre, Sales Manager, Television Promotions, Wood Lane, London W.12.

Distribution and sale of the BBC film on the Red Cross will be organized by Mr. Ralph Dudrow, of the League of Red Cross Societies, Geneva.

### **Stage-coach makes a come-back**

An old stage-coach, brought back into service by the Swiss Postal Authorities on the occasion of the 250th anniversary of Jean-Jacques Rousseau's birth, recently made the journey from Brussels to Switzerland. As it passed through Bastogne, the mail-coach, a symbol of good relations between peoples, was greeted by members of the National Union of Belgian Reservist Medical Officers, who handed over the following message, intended for the President of the International Committee of the Red Cross :

“ Belgian Reservist Medical Officers reiterate to the International Red Cross their feelings of unflinching attachment to the Geneva Conventions.

They will continue to do everything in their power to have the emblems of the Geneva humanitarian work respected and to serve its ideal.”

### **Gift to the ICRC**

The firm of AGFA A.G. Leverkusen in the Federal Republic of Germany recently informed the International Committee of the Red Cross that it was giving it a machine, costing more than

2,000 Swiss francs, which makes it possible to control automatically the exposure of sensitized paper, eliminating the trial and error frequently necessary before obtaining a good copy.

The ICRC photographic laboratory has to reproduce numbers of documents and photographs. As a result of this new equipment the work will be done much more quickly and there will be far less wastage of photographic paper.

### **Red Cross Centenary**

The Centenary Commission in Geneva has asked each National Society to designate someone whose job it will be to ensure liaison with the Commission and it has also asked for the co-operation of the Army medical services in the different celebrations scheduled.

With regard to the Exhibition, it should be mentioned that the designers are continuing their work on the models and sets and steps have been taken to associate art school students with this by asking them to be responsible for certain panels.

The participation of the Juniors in the Commemorative Day is being studied and, with regard to information, there has been widespread circulation of the first number of the Centenary News Letter in Geneva, published in French, English, Spanish, German and Italian.

Finally, the Finance Sub-Committee is presently studying the important problem of the financing of the celebrations.

**THE RED CROSS SOCIETIES  
OF YUGOSLAVIA, BULGARIA AND RUMANIA**

visited by

**THE PRESIDENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE<sup>1</sup>**

Last May, the President, Mr. L. Boissier, accompanied by Mr. G. H. Beckh, Delegate, paid a short visit to the Balkans. His first port of call was Belgrade where he stayed for two days only, since his visit to Yugoslavia was not of an official nature and was only the prelude to a stay of longer duration.

Mr. Boissier was given a most cordial welcome by Dr. Pavle Gregorić, the President, and by the Central Committee of the Yugoslav Red Cross. A large audience at the Society's headquarters heard a speech by Mr. Boissier on the current activities of the International Committee, following which the President and Mr. Beckh had the opportunity of meeting several prominent personalities. On the same day, Mr. Boissier was present at the opening of a Junior Red Cross exhibition, to which several countries contributed. The following day was devoted to seeing the town of Belgrade and its museums.

On the return trip, Mr. Boissier and Mr. Beckh stopped again in Belgrade where they were, once more, welcomed by Dr. Gregorić.

Mr. Boissier thus had various contacts with the Senior Officials of the Yugoslav Red Cross, and the impression which he has gained is of a fast developing Society, which plays an important and beneficent rôle in the life of the country.

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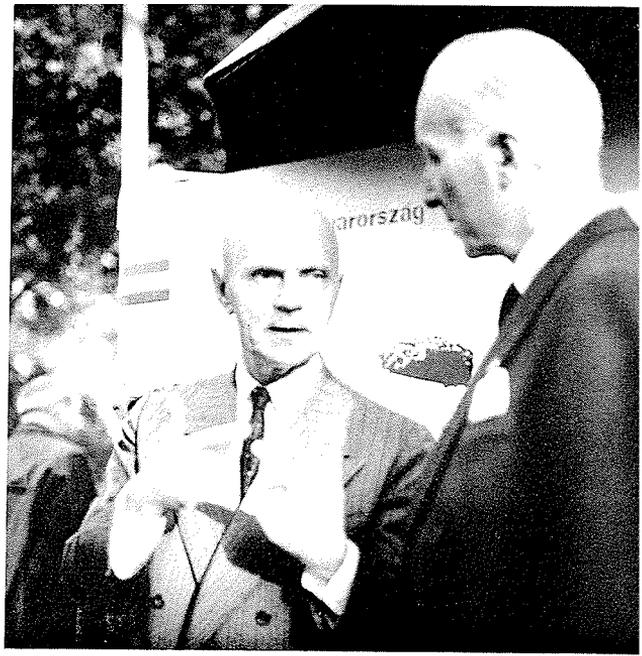
The programme arranged for the ICRC representatives' stay in Bulgaria was a full one. It was to allow the guests (overwhelmed with kindness) to become acquainted with the many activities of

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

## YUGOSLAVIA

*Mr. Boissier, President of the ICRC and Mr. Gregorić (left), President of the Yugoslav Red Cross, at an International Junior Red Cross exhibition in Belgrade.*



## BULGARIA

*At the headquarters of the Bulgarian Red Cross in Sofia: (from left to right) Dr. Anguelov, Vice-President, Mr. Boissier, Mr. Gospodinov, Vice-President, Mr. Beckh, ICRC delegate, Mr. Jordanov, Director of External Relations, and behind them, several members of the Executive Committee.*



*Mr. Boissier watching Bulgarian Red Cross first aiders in Sofia with Mr. Anguelov, Vice-President of the National Society.*



#### RUMANIA

*At Braşov, in Rumania, Mr. Boissier accompanied by Mr. Moisescu, President of the Rumanian Red Cross.*

*Mr. Boissier and Mr. Beckh accompanied by Mr. Berlogea, Vice-President of the Rumanian Red Cross, leaving the Mangalia sea-side sanatorium, after a visit.*



the National Red Cross, not only in Sofia, but also in several other parts of the country. In the absence of Dr. Petre V. Kolarov, the President, who was detained in Geneva by the XVth General Assembly of the World Health Organisation, the guests were received by Dr. Guéorgui Anguelov and Mr. Guéorgui Gospodinov, Vice-Presidents, and their colleagues of the Central Committee.

Following a programme as varied as it was interesting, Mr. Boissier and Mr. Beckh went from Sofia to Plovdiv via the village of Pérouchtitsa, then to Bourgas and Varna, on the beautiful Bulgarian riviera. From Varna, the guests were driven to Kolarovgrad, the birth place of Vassil Kolarov—who was the father of the present President of the Bulgarian Red Cross—then finally to Russe, where a well-known bridge of friendship crosses the Danube. Mr. Boissier and Mr. Beckh then returned to the capital via the old town of Tirnovo.

Everywhere they went, both in Sofia and in the country areas, they visited numerous local Red Cross sections, whose members welcomed them with touching kindness, as well as various hospitals, clinics, sanatoria and schools, and they also saw first aid exercises. Several Bulgarian Red Cross personalities, amongst them Mr. Gospodinov and Dr. Stoïanov were good enough to accompany them.

As Government Officials were in the provinces with Mr. N. Khrushchov, Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the U.S.S.R., Mr. Boissier was received on behalf of the Government by Mr. Yvan Baschev, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs. The President of the ICRC expressed his admiration for the work of the National Society, so closely associated with the efforts of the Bulgarian people in the social and humanitarian field.

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Mr. Boissier and Mr. Beckh then spent several days in Rumania, where they able to see the remarkable development of the Rumanian Red Cross.

On the day following their arrival, Mr. Moisescu, President of the National Society, together with several of his colleagues of the Central Committee, took his guests to Sinaiia and Brasov, where

## INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

they were received by the Committee of the local Red Cross. On this occasion and throughout their stay, Mr. Moïseșcu was kindness itself in showing them the many and extremely varied activities of the Society and of the Ministry of Health. On the following day an excursion in the Dobroudja region and to Constantza, permitted the ICRC representatives to learn something of the remarkable work of the regional Red Cross in the hospital field, as well as to visit the health cure resort on the Black Sea.

On their return to Bucharest, they were able to fill out the information already obtained. Then, Mr. Boissier paid a visit to Mr. Maurer, President of the Council of Ministers of the People's Republic.

All the members of the Rumanian Red Cross—from the President to the humblest worker—welcomed the ICRC representatives with the greatest good will, doing everything to make their visit both fruitful and agreeable.

On his return to Geneva, Mr. Boissier told the International Committee of the profound impression with which his visit to Rumania, Bulgaria and Yugoslavia had left him. In these countries, as he was able to observe everywhere, the Red Cross represents an active force and the work of its members is both useful and highly qualified.

In conclusion, it should be said that this mission was an opportunity for the ICRC to examine with the National Societies which we have just mentioned, certain problems of a humanitarian nature, such as family resettlement and questions relative to the Geneva Conventions.

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## MISSION OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE IN WEST AFRICA

As former French African States began to achieve independence, so the International Committee gave its attention to interesting them in its humanitarian work. It was for this reason that Dr. Gloor, Vice-President, went to Yaoundé during the celebrations organized on the occasion of the proclamation of the independence of the Cameroon Republic, in 1960.

The ICRC is most anxious to establish relations with the authorities of these countries which are parties to the Geneva Conventions of 1949, ratified by France in June 1951.

The ICRC hoped that National Societies would be set up in these States and was therefore pleased to learn recently of the Society founded in Togo, and it was with great pleasure that it accepted an invitation to be represented at the celebrations organized by the Togolese Red Cross in the early part of last May.

This mission was entrusted to Mr. F. de Reynold, head of the Liaison Service, who, on the outward journey at the end of April stopped at Dakar where every opportunity was accorded him to see the work being carried out by the French Red Cross Committee in Senegal, under the presidency of Mr. J. Laurens. Numerous African personalities are included in this Committee, and Mr. Amadou Dia, the Minister of Health, told Mr. de Reynold, during the meeting which he had with him, that a Senegalese Red Cross is being formed. The President of the Provisional Committee is Dr. Coulbary, who will be taking over and developing the work hitherto directed by the French Red Cross.

The ICRC delegate then went to Abidjan, where he had the privilege of being received by Mr. Auguste Denise, acting president of the Ivory Coast Republic, who assured him that his Government is ready to support the institution in Geneva. He declared himself

## INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

willing to encourage the formation of a National Society by officially recognizing the Committee in Abidjan, which is directed by Dr. J. Vilasco—who gave Mr. de Reynold a warm welcome—and by supporting its efforts.

Continuing his journey, the ICRC representative reached Togo, where he was received by the Togolese Red Cross, officially recognized by the ICRC in September 1961. This National Society, under the presidency of Mrs. Savi de Tové and directed by Mr. Boniface T. Dovi, Secretary-General, is developing actively.

In Lomé, Mr. de Reynold took part in successive ceremonies from May 3 to 8, organized by the National Society as part of World Red Cross Day. Various celebrations, all of them extremely successful, took place in an agreeable and lively atmosphere: there was a torchlight procession, diplomas were handed over to first aiders and presents to Togolese Juniors (gifts from the Junior Red Cross in the Federal Republic of Germany) and there was also a big lottery and a ball, and relief was distributed to the needy. These celebrations were intended to put the young Society on the map and to attract the good will of the population as much as obtaining the resources which it needs to successfully carry out its growing tasks. Because this Red Cross Society, which was the first to be set up in African Countries formerly under French rule, is making rapid strides.

The official ceremony, which was most impressive, took place on May 7, in the presence of Mrs. Sylvanna Olympia wife of the President of the Republic and Honorary President of the Togolese Red Cross and of Mr. Paulin Akouété, Minister for Social Affairs.

The ICRC representative then travelled on to Guinea, where right from his arrival in Conakry, he was given a most understanding welcome and found a real interest in the humanitarian work of the ICRC, not only from the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs: Mr. Diallo, but from the Minister of Defence, Mr. Fodeba and from the Minister of Health, Dr. Accar. The latter, moreover, stated that he wishes to see a National Red Cross Society formed shortly (the statutes have already been drafted) and that he will help towards this.

Furthermore, as Mr. de Reynold had already learned previously from the Chief of Staff of the Senegalese Army, General Fall, the

Guinean Minister of Defence declared himself ready to ensure the dissemination of the essential Principles of the Geneva Conventions, amongst the Armed Forces of his country.

On its representative's return to Geneva, the International Committee noted with satisfaction the interest which the authorities of these four West African countries are showing in its work and in a widespread knowledge of the Principles of the Geneva Conventions. It also delighted at the forthcoming foundation of several National Societies and the promising development shown by those Societies already in existence which are carrying out a considerable humanitarian task.

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### **ACTIVE CO-OPERATION WITH THE EAST EUROPEAN COUNTRIES**

Continuing our general description of the activities of the Central Tracing Agency at the headquarters of the ICRC at Geneva, we would point out that requests for information concerning military personnel and civilians of East European origin, missing during the course of the Second World War continue to reach Geneva in fairly large numbers.

Thus in particular the Alliance of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies of the USSR, as well as private individuals living in that country, appealed to the Central Agency to help them discover the fate of Soviet military missing during hostilities or in captivity, to trace civilians deported to Germany or persons who had emigrated many years before and whose families in the USSR wished to know their present whereabouts.

Private individuals of Russian origin established abroad also approach the ICRC in order to obtain news of members of their families remaining in the country or deported to Germany during the war.

## INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

In a number of cases, information held in the Central Agency's card-indexes in Geneva or the International Tracing Service at Arolsen (administered by the ICRC and with whom it works closely) offers basic elements which facilitate searches. We have, in this connection, already mentioned the valuable support given by the National Societies to the ICRC for it to achieve satisfactory results in inquiries of this kind.

If the USSR Section of the Central Agency deals with 700 to 800 cases a month, the other sections in charge of various East European areas are no less active particularly the Polish Section. In fact, the Polish Red Cross as well as private individuals living in Poland or persons of Polish origin established abroad also address themselves to the Central Agency to discover traces of military missing, deported civilians, of families whose members had been dispersed as a result of events which took place during or shortly after the war, as well as to obtain attestations of captivity or certificates of decease.

We have already pointed out the difficulties involved in tracing dispersed civilians, some of whom have several times since the end of the war changed their address or even their country of residence. The long drawn out efforts of the Agency are amply rewarded, however, when it can finally give close relatives the joy of renewing ties which have been broken after so many years.

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## ARAB LANGUAGE COMPETITION

News broadcasts in different languages constitute one of the principal activities of the ICRC Radio Service, and include, on the Swiss Shortwave, Arab language broadcasts, directed by Mr. I. Zreikat, certain of which are passed on, in copies, to radio stations in Arab speaking countries.

The International Committee, anxious to awaken still further the interest of the Arab world, particularly intellectual circles and members of the National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, in the principles and humanitarian action of the Red Cross movement, organized a competition in co-operation with the League, within the framework of these radio broadcasts, which closed in March 1961 and was a tremendous success since the jury was confronted with 133 essays. It will be remembered that under the terms of the competition, essays on one of the following seven subjects, had to be sent to Geneva.

1) The humanitarian idea of the Red Cross and Red Crescent in Arab history.

2) The Principles of the Red Cross and Red Crescent in religions, ethics and philosophy.

3) In what way can members of the Junior Red Cross and Red Crescent contribute towards solving the essential problems of our time, on the local, national and international level ?

4) What does the Red Crescent (or the Red Cross) mean to you and what do you expect from this institution ? What can it expect from you ?

5) The Red Crescent (or the Red Cross) as an important factor in closer relations between people.

6) The importance of the humanitarian rôle of the professional nurse and of the Red Crescent or Red Cross voluntary health worker in society.

## INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

7) Experiences or stories connected with the idea of the Red Crescent (or the Red Cross).

The National Societies of the Arab speaking countries informed their members of the opening of the competition, the news was widely reported in the press and certain official administrations even informed their staff and invited them to participate.

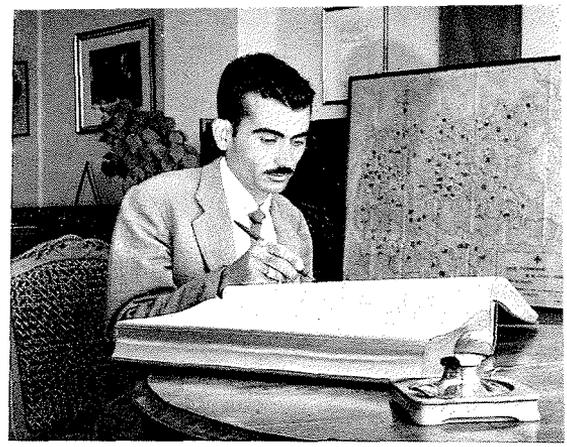
The jury was composed of independent Arab personalities living in Geneva, who were teachers or who worked in International Institutions. It also included non-Arab personalities from the Red Cross movement, for whose benefit the best essays were translated into French. The jury decided to make awards to the participants, who came from nearly every Arab country, from Irak, Morocco, Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, the United Arab Republic, Saudi Arabia, the Hadhramaut, the Persian Gulf, Sudan, Libya and Tunisia. Other Arab speaking competitors came from Brazil, Israel, the Federal Republic of Germany and Switzerland. All of them received a certificate of participation from the International Committee and the League and also acquired the right to a free subscription for one year to the League Review *The Red Cross World*.

Thanks to the co-operation of the National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, the most important prizes including, amongst others, two radio sets and twelve watches were handed over to the winners. Official ceremonies, attended by the Presidents of the National Societies, took place on these occasions.<sup>1</sup> This happened for instance, in Jordan, Syria, Sudan and the U.A.R., where the press and radio devoted a great deal of time and space to the event.

The first prize-winner, as already announced in the International Review, was Mr. Numan Abed Al Dayim. He is 28 years old, a teacher in Jerusalem in Jordan, and he chose the following subject : " The Red Cross as a factor in closer relations between people " ; extracts from his essays will be published in a forthcoming number of the Review. Mr. Numan Abed Al Dayim is himself a war victim, having been wounded during the Palestine conflict in 1948, when he had a leg amputated. He was helped by the International Committee which supplied him with an artificial limb, enabling

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



Mr. Dayim writing at ICRC Headquarters in Geneva:

اننى فخور جداً بأله كنته الفائز الأول في اول مسابته  
دوليه نظمتها اللجنة الدولية للمهادنه والصليب الاحمر  
في جنيف، للمتميزين لادائعاتها في العالم العربى، كما  
اننى سعيد للغاية بأه تدرجى زيارة مقر اعظم  
منظمة انسانية عملت ولا زالت في سبيل الحفاظ  
على كرامه الانسان في كل مكانه الظروف  
نعمار عبدالدايم  
جنيف ١٩٦٤ (١٩٦٥)

*I am proud of having won the first prize in the first international competition organized by the ICRC in Geneva for listeners of its broadcasts to the Arab world. I am also very pleased at having had the opportunity of visiting the headquarters of the greatest humanitarian institution which has worked and continues to work to preserve human dignity under all circumstances.*

COMPETITION  
IN ARABIC

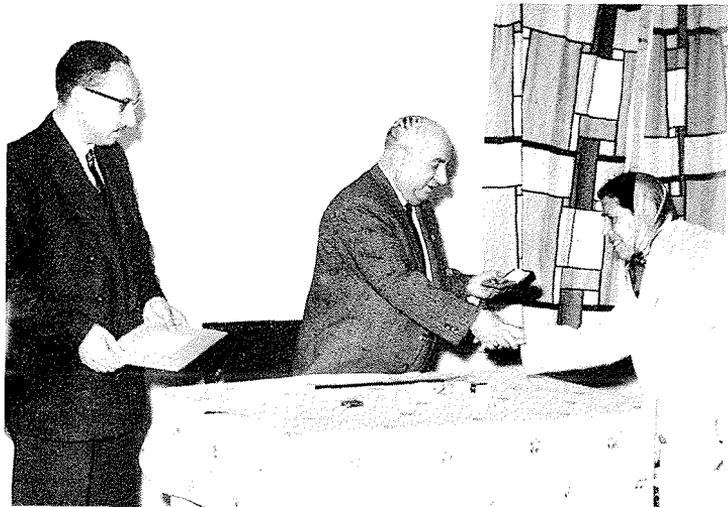


*In Cairo, Dr. Asjoury is handed one of the prizes by Mrs. Shaheen, President of the Women's Committee of the Red Crescent Society of the U.A.R. (Mr. Asfahany, the Secretary-General, is on her left).*



*The President of the Syrian Red Crescent, Dr. Malki presenting a prize to Mr. Mohamed B. Gahwaji.*

*... and the President of the Jordan Red Crescent, Dr. Toutenji (on his right Dr. Abou-Qoura, Secretary-General) to Miss Sarah Jarallah.*



him to lead a normal life. In a letter to the ICRC, Mr. Abed Al Dayim declared : " I owe my life to the Red Cross " .

The winner of the second prize is Mr. Abdel Jalil Hassan Nour, a civil servant in Sudan, the third goes to Mr. Mustafa Obeid Faraht, a Palestinian refugee in Gaza, the fourth to Mr. Cherif Soueidan, a State inspector at Damascus and the fifth to Mr. Mohammed Nouri Bachir, a student at Aleppo. The other prize-winners come from various Arab countries, principally Egypt and Syria.

It will be remembered that the first prize was a plane trip, by Swissair, and a stay of two weeks in Switzerland, where the prize-winner was to be the guest of the ICRC and the League. Mr. Numan Abed Al Dayim duly arrived in Geneva on June 7, 1962, and was met at the airport by representatives of the International Red Cross institutions and by the press, radio and television.

The next day, Mr. Abed Al Dayim was officially received at ICRC headquarters by Miss Lucie Odier and Mr. Jacques Chenevière, Honorary Vice-Presidents, by Mr. Jean Pictet, Director for General Affairs and by several of the staff who explained the work of the institution.<sup>1</sup> He then visited the Central Tracing Agency's card indexes.

On the following days, the prize-winner went on excursions in Geneva and in the area, and was received at the headquarters of the Geneva Section of the Swiss Red Cross. On June 12, he was the guest of Mr. Moukhtar El Wakil, Director of the Office of the Arab League in Geneva, who, with his senior colleagues, also invited Mr. Frédéric Sordet, Vice-President of the ICRC, Mr. Henrik Beer, Secretary-General of the League of Red Cross Societies and other notabilities, amongst them, the Rector of Geneva University.

Mr. Abed Al Dayim also went to the headquarters of the League of Red Cross Societies, where the Secretary-General, Mr. Beer, welcomed him. Here, he had the opportunity of finding out about the activity of this institution.

He then began a tour of Switzerland with a visit to Ste-Croix, where he was cordially welcomed to the Paillard factories. At

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

## INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

Neuchâtel, he visited the watch-making firm of Ernest Borel, who gave the twelve watches handed over as prizes to other participants in the Arab language broadcast competition. He was then received at the headquarters of the Local Committee of the Swiss Red Cross and visited various installations there, amongst them the Blood Transfusion Centre.

Accompanied by Mr. Zreikat, Head of the ICRC Arab broadcasts, Mr. Abed Al Dayim then left for Berne where he was welcomed at the headquarters of the Swiss Red Cross, and from where he continued his tour of Switzerland stopping at several towns in order to see something of the life of the country. Finally, he returned to Geneva where he visited various international institutions and he left for home, on June 22, delighted with his visit.

The Arab language broadcast competition seems to have achieved its aim, which was to propagate a better knowledge in the Arab world of the Red Cross and Red Crescent and the ideals which inspire the movement. It aroused keen interest in the countries of the Middle-East, particularly in Jordan where the Ministry of Education is looking into the possibility of making the study of the principles and humanitarian rules of the Red Cross and Red Crescent compulsory in Jordanian schools.

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**FINANCIAL POSITION OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE**

The financial position of the ICRC at the end of December 1961, together with a summary of expenditure and receipts for the year, is shown in the tables which follow.

In its report of May 30, 1962, the Société fiduciaire romande OFOR, S.A. (the official auditors recognised by the Swiss Federal Council and the Commission fédérale des banques) confirmed the accuracy, after numerous checks, of the entries in the books for 1961 and certified that the accounts truly reflect the financial position of the International Committee. Furthermore, the auditors note that the deficit—including expenditure incurred in 1961 on the ICRC's action in the Congo—amounts to 467,015.72 francs and that this has been written off by withdrawal from the " Reserve for General Risks ".

We also reproduce the annual accounts of the various special Funds, closed at the end of December 1961 and duly audited by the same firm. These concern the Foundation of the International Committee of the Red Cross, the Augusta Fund and the Florence Nightingale Medal Fund. The accounts referring to the Empress Shôken Fund were published in the April number of the *International Review*.

Other tables supplementing those which we are reproducing here, will be published in the Annual Report of the ICRC for 1961, giving details of the voluntary contributions paid in 1961 to the ICRC—which is an independent institution—by Governments and National Red Cross Societies, the summary of the general account for relief action in 1961 and the estimates of ordinary expenditure and receipts for 1962.

\* \* \*

## BALANCE SHEET AS ON

<i>ASSETS</i>	Fr.	Fr.
<b>AVAILABLE AND REALISABLE</b>		
Cash in hand . . . . .	25,904.82	
Postal Cheque Account . . . . .	286,632.09	
Balance at Banks :		
— Swiss francs . . . . .	1,627,068.63	
— Foreign Currency holdings . . . . .	292,169.—	
Public securities and other deposits . . . . .	14,490,786.65	16,722,561.19
<b>FUNDS EARMARKED</b>		
Advanced to ICRC Delegations and Delegates abroad . .	309,841.06	
National Red Cross Societies, Governments and official organizations . . . . .	286,682.85	
Sundry debtors, advances and repayable costs, temporary assets . . . . .	640,369.77	
Commodities (current stocks) . . . . .	5,279.28	1,242,172.96
<b>OTHER ASSETS (nominal)</b>		
Capital share in the " Foundation for the Organization of Red Cross Transports " . . . . .	1.—	
Reserve stocks . . . . .	1.—	
Furniture, machines and equipment . . . . .	1.—	3.—
<b>TRUST FUND</b>		
Funds received in connection with the Peace Treaty with Japan (assets in foreign currency) . . . . .		7,735,264.76
<b>MEMO-ACCOUNT</b>		
Debtor for security . . . . .		400,000.—
		<u>26,100,001.91</u>

DECEMBER 31, 1961

<i>LIABILITIES</i>	Fr.	Fr.
<b>COMMITMENTS</b>		
<i>Funds for relief actions :</i>		
Funds not yet assigned . . . . .	752,313.39	
Funds earmarked . . . . .	243,969.61	
Funds for current relief actions . . . . .	879,560.77	1,875,843.77
<i>Creditors</i>		
ICRC Delegations and Delegates . . . . .	48,446.70	
National Red Cross Societies, Governments and official Organizations . . . . .	439,548.85	
Sundry creditors and temporary liabilities . . . . .	908,525.55	1,396,521.10
		3,272,364.87
<b>PROVISIONS</b>		
Provision for the XXth International Conference of the Red Cross . . . . .	120,000.—	
Provision for special expenditure . . . . .	272,289.10	392,289.10
<b>RESERVE</b>		
Guarantee Fund . . . . .	5,000,000.—	
Reserve for action in case of conflict . . . . .	5,000,000.—	
Reserve for General Risks . . . . .	4,300,083.18	14,300,083.18
<b>TRUST FUND</b>		
Funds in connection with the Peace Treaty with Japan .		7,735,264.76
<b>MEMO-ACCOUNT</b>		
Guarantee in favour of the " Foundation for the Organiza- tion of Red Cross Transports " . . . . .		400,000.—
		26,100,001.91

## GENERAL ACCOUNT OF ORDINARY

<i>EXPENDITURE</i>	Fr.	Fr.
<b>OVERHEAD EXPENSES AT GENEVA HEADQUARTERS</b>		
Allowances, salaries and wages . . . . .	2,145,488.55	
Family allowances, insurance and other social charges . . . . .	406,733.15	
Postage, telegrams, telephone . . . . .	57,700.23	
Equipment, maintenance and general supplies . . . . .	184,459.68	
Upkeep of cars and lorries . . . . .	10,750.60	
Reception of visitors and travelling expenses in Switzerland . . . . .	18,545.54	
Sundry expenditure . . . . .	48,692.36	2,872,370.11
<b>SPECIAL EXPENSES</b>		
Publications, information and documentation . . . . .	201,019.15	
Allowances for expenses of Members of the Presidential Council . . . . .	40,200.—	
Red Cross Conferences and Meetings . . . . .	30,624.—	
Experts Commissions . . . . .	7,599.07	
Missions from Geneva . . . . .	126,414.12	405,856.34
<b>DELEGATIONS ABROAD</b>		
Delegates' salaries, allowances and insurance . . . . .	110,286.35	
Delegates' travelling expenses and maintenance, overhead expenses of delegations . . . . .	61,367.80	
	171,654.15	
Special action in the Congo . . . . .	349,641.45	521,295.60
Allocation to Fund for special expenditure . . . . .		30,000.—
		3,829,522.05

## EXPENDITURE AND RECEIPTS FOR 1961

<i>RECEIPTS</i>	Fr.	Fr.
<b>CONTRIBUTIONS AND GIFTS TOWARDS THE FINANCING OF THE GENERAL WORK</b>		
Contributions by Governments . . . . .	1,403,866.65	2,195,301.86
Contributions by National Red Cross Societies . . . . .	412,355.68	
Sundry donations . . . . .	379,079.53	
<b>INCOME FROM INVESTMENTS</b>		
Income from Public Securities and Bank Interest . . . . .	375,399.50	406,696.70
Income from ICRC Foundation . . . . .	31,297.20	
<b>SUMS RECOVERED AND SUNDRY RECEIPTS</b>		
Costs recovered . . . . .	719,185.69	760,507.77
Sundry receipts . . . . .	41,322.08	
<i>Total receipts</i> . . . . .		3,362,506.33
<b>DEFICIT FOR 1961</b>		
Written off by withdrawal from Reserve for General Risks		467,015.72
		3,829,522.05
<p><i>Note</i> : Receipts and expenditure for relief supplies are not included in this account.</p>		

**FOUNDATION FOR THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE  
OF THE RED CROSS**

*BALANCE SHEET AS ON DECEMBER 31, 1961*

ASSETS	Fr.	Fr.	LIABILITIES	Fr.	Fr.
Government securities :			Inalienable capital. . . . .	1,028,252.52	
Credit entered in the Swiss Confederation National Debt Register, valued at par 827,000.— (Market value : Fr. 843,440.—)			Inalienable reserve fund :		
Securities deposited at the Swiss National Bank, valued at par 245,000.— (Market value : Fr. 244,300.—)		1,072,000.—	Balance brought forward from 1960. . . . .	118,844.45	
Deposit at the Swiss National Bank, Geneva . . . . .		64,015.32	Statutory allocation of 15 % on income in 1961	5,523.05	
Administration fédérale des contributions, Berne (tax paid in advance to be re-funded) . . . . .		8,102.05	Plus value on sales of stock . . . . .	20.15	124,387.65
International Committee of the Red Cross : Funds in current account . . . . .		8,522.80			
		1,152,640.17			1,152,640.17

*RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR 1961*

EXPENDITURE	Fr.	RECEIPTS	Fr.
Deposit fees for safe custody of securities, auditors' fees and various expenses . . . . .	282.—	Revenue from securities in 1961 . . . . .	37,102.25
Statutory allocation to inalienable reserve fund : 15 % of the net revenue in 1961 (art. 8 of the Statutes) . . . . .	5,523.05		
Allocation to the ICRC of balance of net revenue for 1961 (Art. 7 of the Statutes) . . . . .	31,297.20		
	37,102.25		37,102.25

## AUGUSTA FUND

## BALANCE SHEET AS ON DECEMBER 31, 1961

ASSETS		LIABILITIES	
	Fr.		Fr.
Swiss Government securities, valued at par (Market value Fr. 120,000.—) . . . . .	120,000.—	Inalienable capital . . . . .	100,000.—
Deposit at the Swiss National Bank, Geneva . . . . .	9,512.05	Reserve for fluctuation in value	18,178.45
Administration fédérale des contributions, Berne (tax paid in advance to be re- funded) . . . . .	972.—	Funds available on December 31, 1961 . . . . .	7,305.60
	<u>130,484.05</u>	<i>Total value of funds</i> . .	<u>125,484.05</u>
		<i>Creditors</i> (allocations still to be distributed) . . . . .	<u>5,000.—</u>
			<u>130,484.05</u>

## RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR 1961

EXPENDITURE		RECEIPTS	
	Fr.		Fr.
Deposit fees for safe custody of securities, auditors' fees and va- rious expenses . . . . .	143.—	Income from securities in 1961 .	3,492.—
Balance available on December 31, 1961: Balance brought for- ward from the previ- ous year . . . . .	3,956.60	Balance brought forward from 1960 . . . . .	3,956.60
Excess of receipts over expenditure in 1961 . . . . .	<u>3,349.—</u>		
	<u>7,448.60</u>		<u>7,448.60</u>

## INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

## FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE MEDAL FUND

## BALANCE SHEET AS ON DECEMBER 31, 1961

ASSETS		LIABILITIES	
	Fr.		Fr.
Swiss Government securities, valued at par (Market value Fr. 31,680.—) . . . . .	32,000.—	Capital . . . . .	25,000.—
Deposit at the Swiss National Bank, Geneva . . . . .	937.40	Reserve :	
Administration fédérale des contributions, Berne (tax paid in advance to be refunded) . . . . .	259.20	Balance brought forward from 1960 . . . . .	2,309.79
		Excess of receipts over expenditure in 1961 . . . . .	90.60
			<u>2,400.39</u>
		<i>Total value of funds . . . . .</i>	<i>27,400.39</i>
		International Committee of the Red Cross :	
		Funds in current account . . . . .	5,796.21
	<u>33,196.60</u>		<u>33,196.60</u>

## RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR 1961

EXPENDITURE		RECEIPTS	
	Fr.		Fr.
Printing costs, Circular No. 433 . . . . .	230.—	Income from securities in 1961 . . . . .	931.20
Purchase and distribution costs, Florence Nightingale Medal (18th award) . . . . .	498.10		
Auditors' fees, deposit fees for safe custody of securities, bank fees and various expenses . . . . .	112.50		
<i>Total expenses. . . . .</i>	<i>840.60</i>		
Excess of receipts over expenditure in 1961 . . . . .	90.60		
	<u>931.20</u>		<u>931.20</u>

# NEWS OF NATIONAL SOCIETIES

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

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## Thailand

Under the heading *Science Section, Queen Saovabha Memorial Institute (Pasteur Institute)*, the Thai Red Cross published some time ago a pamphlet on the historical background and the very interesting activities of one of its sections. In doing this, it has given an example of the many possibilities open to a National Society—if it keeps itself abreast of progress—to apply the humanitarian principles in the most varied of fields and especially in those which obtain their inspiration from scientific processes. At a time when scientific development is causing no little anxiety, such an example is indeed most stimulating.

Originally known as the “ Institut Pasteur ”, this institute was founded through the energy of Prince Damrong Rajanubharb, one of whose daughters had died of rabies at a time when his country did not yet possess the necessary prophylactic means of treating this disease. Then working under the Ministry of the Interior, this institute was inaugurated in April 1913 by King Vajiravudh, and in 1917 was transferred by royal decree to the Thai Red Cross, which was founded by Queen Saovabha. During this period it was already concentrating its efforts on treatment to be applied in cases of dogbites, on anti-smallpox vaccines, etc.

Continuing to enjoy special Royal favour, this institute was able to expand its services and was to become a scientific section of the Red Cross of great importance. In fact, King Vajiravudh, in memory of his mother who had died in October 1919, made a gift of 250,000 tickals for the construction of a building to house the services of a scientific institute on the model of the Pasteur Institute ; the inauguration of this new building took place in December 1922, which was named after the foundress of the Red Cross. The

services which were already in existence were transferred there and the institute became the Scientific Section of the Thai Red Cross. Great activity was called for in order to meet the numerous needs of the population from the prophylactic point of view.

First of all, in 1925, a "serpentarium" was established in which was placed a reserve of the poisonous snakes of the country for the purpose of extracting the required amount of venom for the production of antivenene serum. "The Snake Farm" is the name which the inhabitants of Thailand have given this installation, details of which are included in the article below and for which we are greatly obliged to the Thai Red Cross.

At that time the activities of the Institute were divided into three services: human microbiology, veterinary microbiology and general microbiology, the last-named consisting of a school of microbiology and research work. Later, and with the object of ensuring greater efficiency, alterations took place which tended to concentrate efforts on humans. If this limited the field of action to some extent, there was considerable development, on the other hand, in the means of acting.

Activity was slowed down during the Second World War on account of a lack of equipment and instruments in the country. After the war, however, everything was put in motion not only to resume the work from where it had been left, but also to give the driving force necessary to enable the Institute to establish contact outside the country and to be informed of current scientific advances in microbiology. With this object all the doctors occupying key-positions were sent abroad to study on the spot the progress which had been made in this sphere during the years of enforced isolation. From 1946 to 1954, seven doctors worked in various countries and then returned to Thailand enriched by much precious scientific knowledge. On their return, six of these were appointed Heads of the following services: administrative, vaccination, sera, research, transfusion and B.C.G. These services at present ensure the running of the scientific section of the Thai Red Cross.

The administrative Service consists of three branches: Secretariat, stores and dispensary; the "stores" branch being responsible for non-medical equipment, whilst the "dispensary" branch occupies itself with all medical equipment.

The vaccines service produces three types of vaccine of various origins and gives free treatment in cases of dogbites, as well as preventive inoculation against certain infections, diseases and epidemics—smallpox, typhoid, diphtheria, cholera. A statistical table showing anti-rabic treatment gives ample proof of the way in which the tasks of the service have increased : in 1956, 6,723 cases were treated compared with 1,022 in 1929.

Near the " serpentarium ", the Institute has also established its own horse stables, which enable it to continue independently the production of certain other sera.

In conclusion, it should be mentioned that treatment for bites is carried out, through the Institute, at five hospitals in the suburbs of Bangkok. The interval between the bite and the application of treatment is thus considerably reduced, thereby correspondingly increasing the number of cures.

The Institute also supplies antivenin serum to the Ministry of Health, which arranges for its storage and distribution to 700 dispensaries of the country.

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### **A special duty of the Thai Red Cross Society**

Like most National Red Cross Societies the Thai Red Cross Society has the Relief and Health Division, Junior and Voluntary Aid Divisions. It was the decision of H. M. King Vajiravudh to add a scientific division to work under the Thai Red Cross. This Division was created as Pasteur Institute in 1913 working under the Ministry of Interior. Its main duty was to produce antirabic and anti-smallpox vaccines. In 1917 it was transferred to work under the Thai Red Cross Society and in 1922 a big and beautiful building was donated by H. M. King Vajiravudh to serve as the laboratories and administration building of the Division " The Queen Saovabha Memorial Institute ".

Before the Second World War this Institute was responsible for the production of all biological products required in the country and

NEWS OF NATIONAL SOCIETIES

had close relation with the Health Section of the League of Nations. This relation has the effect on the responsibility of producing standardized biological products. When the Second World War was over the United Nations and their specialized agencies came into existence. The Science Division of the Thai Red Cross is in close correlation with the World Health Organization in the work of common interests.

At present the Science Division produces the following vaccines and sera :

Vaccines	{	Bacterial	{	Cholera Typhoid BCG Autogenous
		Viral	{	Smallpox Rabies
		Toxoid	{	Diphtheria Tetanus
Sera	{	Antivenin	{	Cobra King cobra Russell's viper Banded krait Agkistrodon rhodostoma Polyvalent
		Antitoxin	{	Diphtheria Tetanus

Distilled Water  
Normal Saline  
Glucose Solution

Most of these sera and vaccines are produced likewise in many countries but the main feature which is different from other institutions is the production of five specific antivenin sera and polyvalent antivenin serum :

- 1 Cobra (*Naja tripudians*)
- 2 King cobra (*Naja bungarus*)

- 3 Banded krait (*Bungarus fasciatus*)
- 4 Russell's viper (*Vipera russelli*)
- 5 *Agkistrodon rhodostoma*
- 6 Polyvalent antivenin serum (Cobra and Russell's viper)

In 1923 a snake farm was built on the premises of the Science Division in order to keep deadly poisonous snakes for extracting the venom to be used in the production of antivenin sera. There are over 30 different kinds of poisonous snakes in Thailand but only 5 are deadly. The Institute buys and keeps these five kinds of poisonous snakes through the year and buys any living snake at sight. During the months of August through November the inmates of Snake Farm will be raised to one thousand. In introducing the scheme of buying any living snake at sight the farmers are encouraged to bring in large quantities of dangerous reptiles, thus reducing their number at large. The Snake Farm is open to the public every day ; on Mondays there is a demonstration how to feed the snakes ; on Thursdays a demonstration on extraction of venom is given to the public.

These performances always draw big crowds which include local people and tourists. Educational bodies also send groups to visit the serpentarium to get some ideas about dangerous snakes and pamphlets which deal with first aid and treatment of snake-bites are distributed to them. The antivenin sera produced at the Institute are used in the country and also being sent to neighbouring countries where they have the same fauna of snakes. Other countries where they keep our snakes in the zoos required a nominal quantity of our antivenin sera. Apart from preparing antivenin sera the Science Division is also doing research work on snake venoms and antivenin sera.

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**Viet Nam**  
REPUBLIC

Aid to the victims of the autumn 1961 floods was one of the most important of the Society's activities in recent months. Several National Red Cross Societies replied to the League of Red Cross Societies' appeal, and relief supplies valued at about 400,000 Swiss francs were distributed in the worst hit provinces. The ICRC delegate was invited by a Viet Nam Red Cross delegation to be present at several of these distributions. The most recent one took place on May 6, at Mochoa, chief town of the Kien-Tuong province, where 1,500 families, representing four to five thousand people each received four kilos of rice, four metres of cloth, one tin of sardines and some pickling brine.

Like most of its sister Societies in the world, the Viet Nam Red Cross celebrated World Red Cross Day on May 8. A ceremony, presided over by the Secretary of State for Education, took place at Red Cross headquarters, at which were present official personalities, notabilities, the ICRC delegate and press representatives.

Dr. Pham van Hat, President of the Viet Nam Red Cross first of all commented on the motto adopted for the commemoration of World Red Cross Day: "A Call to Action". The Secretary of State then warmly congratulated the Viet Nam Red Cross on the charitable work carried out during the year, particularly as regards the active and effective help given to the victims of the floods which ravaged the Western provinces. The President of the National Society then drew back the Red Cross flag which covered one of the walls of the hall, revealing the marble plaque on which the name of Henry Dunant is engraved in gold. A first aid demonstration given by the National Society Juniors completed the ceremony, which was followed by a reception, also held at the Society's headquarters.

It should be mentioned that this year the Viet Nam Red Cross continued its annual kerbside collection which took place at the beginning of May, whilst various approaches were made to the principal commercial enterprises. The success with which this collection met will allow the National Society to replenish its relief funds for the needy populations.

## A GLANCE THROUGH THE REVIEWS

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*The Red Cross World*, — Geneva, January-March 1962.

This number of the League's official organ is devoted to the subject of health and contains numerous illustrations which show how the Red Cross is battling against ignorance. There are photographs of mothers learning to look after a baby and of attempts to instil clean habits and elements of personal and food hygiene in children. Further on, the school-mistress is shown as one of the principal missionaries of health and the Junior Red Cross as the institution which gives young people the opportunity to put into practice what they have learned in the classroom and to apply it outside.

Further illustrations show the League's action on behalf of Algerian refugees in Morocco and Tunisia, the milk distribution centres in the six Congo provinces and the training of teams and home nursing instructors in the Congo, Gabon and Togo.

In an article entitled "The right to health", Dr. E. Berthet, Director General of the International Children's Centre and technical adviser in mother and child welfare to the League, demonstrates the importance which the age we live in accords to health problems. He proceeds to analyse the different aspects of health education in the semi-developed and under-developed regions, pointing out that an increase in productivity depends largely on healthy workers and that the development of health education of the public, which will limit the waste of effort and money, is absolutely essential. He concludes by saying :

"Health education should give men and communities a feeling of responsibility. It will only be effective if it succeeds in transforming their behaviour and in making them aware of the personal efforts required for the preservation of a good physical and mental balance.

Until recently health education was confined to teaching the rules of hygiene. Now it has become a veritable education, appealing to individuals to participate actively in health promotion and stimulating their sense of family and civic responsibilities. It aims less at disseminating rules than at creating a "health mentality", healthy living reflexes. Health education therefore, becomes a social education destined to improve the well-being of peoples". It must induce families to make better use of the public health services and make health and social workers aware of the fact that education is the essential factor in all their activities."

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

(AGREED AND AMENDED ON SEPTEMBER 25, 1952)

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

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

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

ART. 3. — The headquarters of the ICRC shall be in Geneva.  
Its emblem shall be a red cross on a white ground. Its motto shall be “*Inter arma caritas*”.

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

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

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

- (c) to undertake the tasks incumbent on it under the Geneva Conventions, to work for the faithful application of these Conventions and to take cognizance of any complaints regarding alleged breaches of the humanitarian Conventions ;
- (d) to take action in its capacity as a neutral institution, especially in case of war, civil war or internal strife; to endeavour to ensure at all times that the military and civilian victims of such conflicts and of their direct results receive protection and assistance, and to serve, in humanitarian matters, as an intermediary between the parties ;
- (e) to contribute, in view of such conflicts, to the preparation and development of medical personnel and medical equipment, in 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 question requiring examination by such an institution.

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



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## ADDRESSES OF CENTRAL COMMITTEES

- AFGHANISTAN — Afghan Red Crescent, *Kabul*.
- ALBANIA — Albanian Red Cross, 35, *Rruga Barrikadavet, Tirana*.
- ARGENTINE — Argentine Red Cross, Victoria 2068 (R.72), *Buenos Aires*.
- AUSTRALIA — Australian Red Cross, 122-128 Flinders Street, *Melbourne, C. 1*.
- AUSTRIA — Austrian Red Cross, 3, Gusshausstrasse, *Vienna IV*.
- BELGIUM — Belgian Red Cross, 98, Chaussée de Vleurgat, *Brussels*.
- BOLIVIA — Bolivian Red Cross, Avenida Simon-Bolivar, 1515 (Casilla 741), *La Paz*.
- BRAZIL — Brazilian Red Cross, Praça da Cruz Vermelha 10-12, *Rio de Janeiro*.
- BULGARIA — Bulgarian Red Cross, 1, Boul. S.S. Biruzov, *Sofia*.
- BURMA — Burma Red Cross, 42, Strand Road, Red Cross Building, *Rangoon*.
- CAMBODIA — Cambodian Red Cross, 8 Phlaur Ang Nonn, P.O.B. 94, *Pnom-Penh*.
- CANADA — Canadian Red Cross, 95, Wellesley Street East, *Toronto 5*.
- CEYLON — Ceylon Red Cross, 106, Dharmalapa Mawatte, *Colombo VII*.
- CHILE — Chilean Red Cross, Avenida Santa Maria 0150, Casilla 246 V., *Santiago de Chile*.
- CHINA — Red Cross Society of China, 22, Kamien Hutung, *Peking, E*.
- COLOMBIA — Colombian Red Cross, Carrera 7a, 34-65 Apartado nacional 11-10, *Bogota*.
- COSTA RICA — Costa Rican Red Cross, Calle 5a Sur, Apartado 1025, *San José*.
- CUBA — Cuban Red Cross, Ignacio Agramonte 461, *Havana*.
- CZECHOSLOVAKIA — Czechoslovakian Red Cross, Thunovska 18, *Prague III*.
- DENMARK — Danish Red Cross, Platanvej 22 *Copenhagen V*.
- DOMINICAN REPUBLIC — Dominican Red Cross, Calle Galvan 24, Apartado 1293, *San Domingo*.
- ECUADOR — Ecuadorian Red Cross, Avenida Colombia y Elizalde 118, *Quito*.
- ETHIOPIA — Ethiopian Red Cross, *Addis Ababa*.
- FINLAND — Finnish Red Cross, Tehtaankatu 1 A, *Helsinki*.
- FRANCE — French Red Cross, 17, rue Quentin-Bauchart, *Paris (8<sup>e</sup>)*.
- GERMANY (Dem. Republic) — German Red Cross in the German Democratic Republic, Kaitzerstrasse 2, *Dresden A. 1*.
- GERMANY (Federal Republic) — German Red Cross in the Federal Republic of Germany, Friedrich-Ebert-Allee 71, *Bonn*.
- GHANA — Ghana Red Cross, P.O. Box 835, *Accra*.
- GREAT BRITAIN — British Red Cross, 14 Grosvenor Crescent, *London, S.W.1*.
- GREECE — Greek Red Cross, rue Lycavitou 1, *Athens*.
- GUATEMALA — Guatemalan Red Cross, 4a Calle 11-42, Zona 1, *Guatemala*.
- HAITI — Haiti Red Cross, rue Férou, *Port-au-Prince*.
- HONDURAS — Honduran Red Cross, Calle Henry Dunant, *Tegucigalpa*.
- HUNGARY — Hungarian Red Cross, Arany Janos utca 31, *Budapest V*.
- ICELAND — Icelandic Red Cross, Thorvaldsensstraeti 6, *Reykjavik*.
- INDIA — Indian Red Cross, 1 Red Cross Road, *New Delhi 1*.
- INDONESIA — Indonesian Red Cross, Tanah Abang Barat 66, *Djakarta*.
- IRAN — Iranian Red Lion and Sun Society, Avenue Ark, *Teheran*.
- IRAQ — Iraqi Red Crescent, *Baghdad*.
- IRELAND — Irish Red Cross, 25 Westland Row *Dublin*.
- ITALY — Italian Red Cross, 12, via Toscana, *Rome*.
- JAPAN — Japanese Red Cross, 5 Shiba Park, Minato-Ku, *Tokyo*.
- JORDAN — Jordan Red Crescent, P.O. Box 1337, *Amman*.
- KOREA (Democratic Republic) — Red Cross Society of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, *Pyongyang*.
- KOREA (Republic) — The Republic of Korea National Red Cross, 32-3 Ka Nam San-Dong, *Seoul*.
- LAOS — Laotian Red Cross, *Vientiane*.
- LEBANON — Lebanese Red Cross, rue Général Spears, *Beirut*.

## ADDRESSES OF CENTRAL COMMITTEES

- LIBERIA — Liberian National Red Cross, Camp Johnson Road, *Monrovia*.
- LIBYA — Libyan Red Crescent, Berka Omar Mukhtar Street, P.O. Box 541, *Benghazi*.
- LIECHTENSTEIN — Liechtenstein Red Cross, *Vaduz*.
- LUXEMBURG — Luxembourg Red Cross, Parc de la Ville, *Luxembourg*.
- MEXICO — Mexican Red Cross, Sinaloa 20, 4º piso, *Mexico 7, D.F.*
- MONACO — Red Cross of Monaco, 27, Boul. de Suisse, *Monte-Carlo*.
- MONGOLIA — Red Cross Society of the Mongolian People's Republic, 26, Nairamdal Gudang, P.O. 20/26 *Ulan-Bator*.
- MOROCCO — Moroccan Red Crescent, rue Calmette, *Rabat*.
- NETHERLANDS — Netherlands Red Cross, 27 Prinsessegracht, *The Hague*.
- NEW ZEALAND — New Zealand Red Cross, 61 Dixon Street, P.O.B. 6073, *Wellington C. 2*.
- NICARAGUA — Nicaraguan Red Cross, 12 Avenida Nordeste, 305, *Managua, D.N.C.A.*
- NIGERIA — The Nigerian Red Cross Society, 2, Makoko Road, P.O. Box 764, *Lagos*.
- NORWAY — Norwegian Red Cross, Parkveien 33b, *Oslo*.
- PAKISTAN — Pakistan Red Cross, Frere Street, *Karachi 4*.
- PANAMA — Panamanian Red Cross, *Panama*.
- PARAGUAY — Paraguayan Red Cross, calle André Barbero y Artigas, *Asunción*.
- PERU — Peruvian Red Cross, Tarapaca 881, *Lima*.
- PHILIPPINES — Philippine National Red Cross, 600 Isaac Peral Street, P.O.B. 280, *Manila*.
- POLAND — Polish Red Cross, Mokotowska 14, *Warsaw*.
- PORTUGAL — Portuguese Red Cross, General Secretariat, Jardim 9 de Abril, 1 a 5, *Lisbon*.
- RUMANIA — Red Cross of the Rumanian People's Republic, Strada Biserica Amzei 29, C.P. 729, *Bucarest*.
- SALVADOR — Salvador Red Cross, 3a Avenida Norte y 3a Calle Poniente, 21, *San Salvador*.
- SAN MARINO — San Marino Red Cross, *San Marino*.
- SOUTH AFRICA (Republic) — South African Red Cross, 304, Barclay's Bank Building, 14 Hollard Street, P.O.B. 8726, *Johannesburg*.
- SPAIN — Spanish Red Cross, Eduardo Dato 16, *Madrid, 10*.
- SUDAN — Sudanese Red Crescent, P.O. Box 235, *Khartum*.
- SWEDEN — Swedish Red Cross, Artillerigatan 6, *Stockholm 14*.
- SWITZERLAND — Swiss Red Cross, Taubenstrasse 8, *Berne*.
- SYRIA — Syrian Red Crescent, *Damascus*.
- THAILAND — Thai Red Cross Society, King Chulalongkorn Memorial Hospital, *Bangkok*.
- TOGO — Togolese Red Cross Society, Avenue des Alliés, P.O. Box 655, *Lome*.
- TUNISIA — Tunisian Red Crescent, 1, Avenue de Carthage, *Tunis*.
- TURKEY — Turkish Red Crescent, Yenisehir, *Ankara*.
- UNITED ARAB REPUBLIC — Red Crescent Society of the United Arab Republic, 34, rue Ramses, *Cairo*.
- URUGUAY — Uruguayan Red Cross, Avenida 8 de Octubre, 2990, *Montevideo*.
- U.S.A. — American Red Cross, National Headquarters, 17th and D Streets, N.W., *Washington 6, D.C.*
- U.S.S.R. — Alliance of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, Koznetskyy Most 18/7, *Moscow*.
- VENEZUELA — Venezuelan Red Cross, Avenida Andrés Bello No 4, *Caracas*.
- VIET NAM (Democratic Republic) — Red Cross of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, 68, rue Bà-Triez, *Hanoi*.
- VIET NAM (Republic) — Red Cross of the Republic of Viet Nam, 201, duong Hồng-Thập-Tu, No. 201, *Saigon*.
- YUGOSLAVIA — Yugoslav Red Cross, Simina ulica broj 19, *Belgrade*.