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THE RED CROSS AND BIOLOGICAL AND CHEMICAL WEAPONS

by J. Mirimanoff

It is not the purpose of this article to develop or settle the delicate problems arising from the Geneva Protocol of 17 June 1925 for the Prohibition of the use in war of asphyxiating, poisonous or other gases and of bacteriological methods of warfare; it merely outlines, on the occasion of the forty-fifth anniversary of the Protocol, the role of the Red Cross in the development of law and the work now being carried out by the main international organizations.

I. ICRC appeal of 6 February 1918

“Far from attenuating the evils of war, progress in the science of aeronautics, ballistics and chemistry might well be said only to have aggravated suffering and especially to have extended it to all the population, so that war will soon be all-destroying and without mercy.

We wish to-day to take a stand against a barbaric innovation which science is bringing to perfection, that is to say making it more lethal and more subtly cruel. This innovation is the use of asphyxiating and poisonous gas, which will it seems increase to an extent so far undreamed of.

.....

We now hear of new volatile poisons, large-scale production of which is all the easier as the raw material is ready to hand. We are shown missiles loaded with these poisonous gases spreading death—and a horrible death it is—not only among the fighting forces, but behind the

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lines among an inoffensive population over a wide area in which all living things will be destroyed. We protest with all the force at our command against such warfare, which can only be called criminal. And if, as seems likely, the enemy is forced to counter-attack or resort to reprisals to compel the perpetrator of this odious practice to give it up, we can only see ahead a struggle which will exceed in barbarity anything which history has known so far.”

Such was the ICRC’s appeal to belligerents on 6 February 1918, before the end of hostilities.¹

II. Conventions earlier than the Geneva Protocol

For the first time in the history of war, gas was used on 22 April 1915 at the front at Yser ². This was a breach of inchoate laws such as the Saint-Petersburg Declaration of 1868, prohibiting the use of weapons which cause unnecessary suffering; the 1899 Hague Declaration concerning the prohibition of using projectiles the sole object of which is the diffusion of asphyxiating or deleterious gases; and the Regulation annexed to the Hague Convention of 1907 (art. XXIII (a) and (e)) prohibiting the use of poison or poisonous weapons.³

III. Geneva Protocol of 17 June 1925

Origin

With a view to preventing a recurrence of such ghastly events, the ICRC strove to remedy legal shortcomings. On 22 November 1920, the ICRC addressed a letter to the General Assembly of the League of Nations, proposing that various measures should be taken, including: “absolute prohibition of the use of asphyxiating

¹ See *Bulletin international des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge*, ICRC, Geneva, April 1918.

² Vifluege, a village near Ypres.

³ The opinion has been expressed that this article XXIII (a) does not apply to gas: “it has not been applied generally by States in connexion with poison gas. One reason is that article XXIII (a) was formulated when the experience of mankind did not encompass poison in terms of gas but in terms of poisoned water or food, or poisoned arrows. This codification of custom reflected the past, not the unknown future.” (Major J. Burns Kelly, “Gas Warfare in International Law”, *Military Law Review*, Washington, 1960, p. 44).

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gas, a cruel and barbarous weapon which inflicts terrible suffering upon its victims.” In 1921, the Xth International Conference of the Red Cross urged governments to come to an agreement on the absolute prohibition of the use of gas as a weapon, however delivered, whether by drift, missiles or otherwise.

These appeals did not go unheeded, for, some years later, during a Conference convened by the League of Nations on the supervision of international trade in weapons, the governments concluded the Geneva Protocol of 17 June 1925. (Despite its title, the Geneva Protocol is not related to the Geneva Conventions which were drafted by the ICRC with the assistance of international experts.)

Title

The Protocol is entitled: “ Geneva Protocol of June 17, 1925, for the prohibition of the use in war of asphyxiating, poisonous or other gases and of bacteriological methods of warfare ” (Protocole de Genève du 17 juin 1925 concernant la prohibition d’emploi, à la guerre, de gaz asphyxiants, toxiques ou similaires et de moyens bactériologiques).

(The authors of the Geneva Protocol were content to repeat the definition given in article 171 of the Treaty of Versailles and article 5 of the Treaty of Washington, the English and French texts of which are equally authentic.)

The benefits of the Protocol

The Geneva Protocol is a basic legal instrument because it is devoted entirely to a question which earlier Conventions hardly touched upon, because there is still no similar treaty on biological and chemical weapons and because States parties to the Geneva Protocol are much more numerous than those which are parties to the earlier treaties already mentioned. In practice, apart from the use of reputedly non-lethal gas, held by some to be illicit and by others permissible, the Geneva Protocol has in general been respected by the States parties thereto: no chemical or biological weapons were used during the Second World War, although the prohibition was violated in an earlier conflict and occasional breaches have been committed since.

Types of biological and chemical agents

What are the biological and chemical agents involved? The WHO report, *Health Aspects of Chemical and Biological Weapons* (WHO, Geneva, 1970) defines them as follows: "Chemical agents of warfare include all substances employed for their toxic effects on man, animals or plants... Biological agents include those that depend for their effects on multiplication within the target organism, and are intended for use in war to cause disease or death in man, animals or plants" (p. 12). The chemical agents include neurotoxic, asphyxiating, lachrymatory, psycho-chemical and other gases. The biological agents include bacteria, viruses, mycetes and rickettsiae, as well as semi-synthetic biological matter. The main difference between the chemical and the biological agents is the latter's ability to multiply.

In military circles⁴ biological and chemical weapons are classified as lethal and non-lethal, but this distinction is the subject of controversy and is contested particularly in many scientific circles. An incapacitating—i.e. supposedly non-lethal—agent might be permanently harmful to health; it might even cause the death of certain categories of people, such as young children, the undernourished, the sick or the aged.

The WHO report (p. 12) divides biological and chemical agents into three types: "A lethal agent is one intended to cause death when man is exposed to concentrations well within the capability of delivery for military purposes. An incapacitating agent is one intended to cause temporary disease or to induce temporary mental or physical disability, the duration of which greatly exceeds the period of exposure. A harassing agent (or short-term incapacitant) is one capable of causing a rapid disablement that lasts for little longer than the period of exposure". Page 23 of the report adds: "The above classifications are not toxicological categories, for the effects of a chemical warfare agent depend as much on the way it is used as on its toxicological properties. If too much of an agent intended for harassment is used, it may kill or severely injure. Likewise, if a low concentration of a lethal agent is disseminated, its effects may be only incapacitating or harassing".

⁴ Cf. *inter alia*, Major J. Burns Kelly, *op. cit.*, p. 59.

*Napalm*⁵

What is the situation so far as napalm is concerned? Some argue that it is an established permissible weapon provided it is used against military objectives. Others contend that it is illicit on two counts: as an asphyxiant it is forbidden by the Geneva Protocol; for the atrocious suffering it causes, it is forbidden by the Saint-Petersburg Declaration.

Controversies concerning the interpretation of the Geneva Protocol

Unfortunately, as a result of trends which have become more evident since the end of the Second World War, the Geneva Protocol at present gives rise to no little controversy about its interpretation and scope.

Grosso modo, it is held in some quarters that the prohibition contained in the Geneva Protocol is absolute, covering all biological and chemical weapons, giving a wide interpretation to the Protocol on the basis of its English title, whereas in other quarters the view prevails that the prohibition is relative and does not preclude the use of certain, non-lethal, weapons, thus construing the Protocol restrictively on the grounds of the French title. Yet both the French and the English versions are equally authentic. However, the French Government, the depositary of the Geneva Protocol and the first to ratify it, specified in a note in connection with the preparatory work leading to the League of Nations disarmament conference⁶, that it considered the prohibition extended to the use of lachrymatory agents⁷.

⁵ Resolution XXIII of the International Conference on Human Rights (Teheran, April-May 1968), in its fourth preambular paragraph, mentions napalm: "Considering, also, that the widespread violence and brutality of our times, including massacres, summary executions, tortures, inhuman treatment of prisoners, killing of civilians in armed conflicts and the use of chemical and biological means of warfare, including napalm bombing, erode human rights and engender counter-brutality..."

⁶ Cf. Georges Fischer: "L'emploi des armes chimiques et bactériologiques" in *Le Monde Diplomatique*, Jan. 1970.

⁷ On tear gas, Professor Meselson of Harvard University expressed the following opinion in *Bulletin of Atomic Scientists* (Jan. 1970, p. 31):

"I would like to express the opinion that the question of tear gas might be approached as follows. On the one hand, there is no question that there is a danger of escalation when any gas is used.

On the other hand, it might be felt that tear gas is a useful weapon and under some conditions might actually cause less fatalities than other means.

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An "International Commission of Experts on the Legal Protection of Civilian Populations against the Dangers of Chemical Warfare" convened by the ICRC in 1931 considered that "the Geneva Protocol, in a quite general way, prohibits the use of poisonous and bacteriological weapons. Such a legal safeguard for the armed forces is *a fortiori* applicable to civilian populations".

Another controversial issue is whether the Geneva Protocol prohibits weapons which did not exist or had not been perfected when that Protocol became operative⁸.

In addition, there were conflicting opinions on whether the Geneva Protocol was the expression of customary law, existing at the time it was drawn up, binding even States which are not parties thereto in view of its basic humanitarian character, its fairly wide diffusion and the absence of treaty derogations which could permit the use of certain biological and chemical weapons.⁹ Resolution 2603 adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in December 1969 reflects the same idea¹⁰.

The limits to the Geneva Protocol

Whilst conferring great advantages, the Geneva Protocol does have limits:

— it prohibits the use—but not the manufacture and storage—of bacteriological and chemical weapons (it therefore relates to the law of war, but not the law of disarmament);

I would point out that one should expect any gas to be used in conjunction with other weapons, and that, therefore, even tear gas, although it is non-lethal, would, under the conditions of war, be used to enhance the effectiveness of lethal weapons".

⁸ "Les armes B étaient, en 1925, à peine connues. On a donc interdit une arme future, et on l'a prohibée sans restriction, sans tenir compte des possibilités de développement dont cette arme était capable, et sachant évidemment qu'il existe des bactéries banales à effet simplement incapacitant." (H. Meyrowitz, *Les armes biologiques et le droit international*, Paris, Ed. Pedone, 1968, p. 40). For a contrary opinion cf. Major J. Burns Kelly, *op. cit.*

⁹ Cf. H. Meyrowitz, *op. cit.*; especially pp. 84 et seq.

¹⁰ Likewise, it has been held that the principles of the Hague Conventions and Regulations of 1907 were—and still are—customary law, whereas those of the 1949 Geneva Conventions might have become customary law (Cf. UN Secretary-General Report "Respect for Human Rights in Time of Armed Conflict", A/7720, 20 Nov. 69; and C. Pilloud: "The Geneva Conventions—an important anniversary—1949-1969" in *International Review of the Red Cross*, August 1969, p. 399. See also April 1962, p. 207, and July 1966, p. 386.

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- it has not been ratified by almost all States, as is the case for the Geneva Conventions;
- it does not specifically mention the case of non-international armed conflict;
- accession has often been qualified by reservations. These are generally twofold: 1) that the Protocol is binding on the State making the reservation only in its relations with States which have ratified and adhere to the Protocol; 2) that the Protocol shall cease to be binding on the State making the reservation in its action against an enemy State if the latter's armed forces or allies fail to respect the prohibitions laid down in the Protocol.

In addition, it seems that today consideration is being given to reservations of a kind different from the two mentioned, relating to the contents or interpretation of the text of the Geneva Protocol, and according to which the use of certain specific chemical agents would be "permissible".

IV. Red Cross Activities and Biological and Chemical Warfare

The first steps taken by the ICRC in 1918 and 1920 as well as the resolution of the Xth International Conference of the Red Cross, all of which came before the Geneva Protocol, have already been mentioned in Ch. III. Since then, in nearly every International Conference of the Red Cross, States have been cautioned against the use of non-discriminating weapons and, between the two world wars, particularly against the use of biological and chemical weapons. (By advocating precautions for the protection of civilian populations at the time the Geneva Protocol was being evolved, the ICRC was also, it may be held, an initiator of civil defence.)

In a compendium of documents on chemical and air warfare submitted by the ICRC to the members of the Conference for the reduction and limitation of weapons, the ICRC said: "The ICRC is certainly convinced of the absolute need to replace war by the peaceful settlement of international difficulties, but so long as the possibility of recourse to armed force subsists, it is the Committee's duty to bear in mind the welfare of all war victims. Restricted today to the terms of reference assigned to it, and with the humanitarian

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point of view which prompts it to action, the ICRC considers that the only way to shelter civilians from some of the worst dangers arising from war is purely and simply to prohibit air raids and chemical and bacteriological warfare, for which it makes a pressing appeal to the Conference". (*Documents relatifs à la guerre chimique et aérienne*, ICRC, 1932, p. 5).

In addition, many resolutions¹¹ adopted by the International Conferences of the Red Cross, as well as many ICRC memoranda, urge States to accede to the Geneva Protocol.

It would be useful, at this point, to quote the most recent resolutions:

1. *Resolution XXVIII of the XXth International Conference of the Red Cross in Vienna ("Protection of Civilian Populations against the Dangers of Indiscriminate Warfare")*

"The XXth International Conference of the Red Cross,

.....

states that indiscriminate warfare constitutes a danger to the civilian population and the future of civilisation,

¹¹ See annex for resolutions adopted on this subject by the International Conferences of the Red Cross. The more recent resolutions cover weapons of mass destruction as a whole.

Article 14 of the "Draft Rules for the Limitation of the Dangers incurred by the Civilian Population in Time of War", submitted to the XIXth International Conference of the Red Cross in New Delhi, 1957, by the ICRC, reads as follows: "Without prejudice to the present or future prohibition of certain specific weapons, the use is prohibited of weapons whose harmful effects—resulting in particular from the dissemination of incendiary, chemical, bacteriological, radio-active or other agents—could spread to an unforeseen degree or escape, either in space or in time, from the control of those who employ them, thus endangering the civilian population.

This prohibition also applies to delayed-action weapons, the dangerous effects of which are liable to be felt by the civilian population."

See also "The Legal Protection of Civilian Populations against the Dangers of Indiscriminate Warfare" (ICRC Reports, June 1963 and March 1965).

On the same subject, the Institute of International Law, at its Edinburgh Session, in September 1969, adopted a resolution entitled "The distinction between military objectives and non-military objects in general and particularly the problems associated with weapons of mass destruction", operative paragraph 7 of which states that:

"Existing international law prohibits the use of all weapons which, by their nature, affect indiscriminately both military objectives and non-military objects, or both armed forces and civilian populations. In particular, it prohibits the use of weapons the destructive effect of which is so great that it cannot be limited to specific military objectives or is otherwise uncontrollable (self-generating weapons) as well as of blind weapons."

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solemnly declares that all Governments and other authorities responsible for action in armed conflicts should conform at least to the following principles:

- that the right of the parties to a conflict to adopt means of injuring the enemy is not unlimited;
 - that it is prohibited to launch attacks against the civilian populations as such;
 - that distinction must be made at all times between persons taking part in the hostilities and members of the civilian population to the effect that the latter be spared as much as possible;
 - that the general principles of the Law of War apply to nuclear and similar weapons;
- expressly invites all Governments which have not yet done so to accede to the Geneva Protocol of 1925 which prohibits the use of asphyxiating, poisonous, or other gases, all analogous liquids, materials or devices, and bacteriological methods of warfare... ”

It should be noted that the first three of these four principles were subsequently included in Resolution 2444 of the 23rd Session of the United Nations General Assembly dated 13 January 1969 entitled “ Respect for Human Rights in Armed Conflicts ”.

2. *Resolution XIV of the XXIst International Conference of the Red Cross in Istanbul (“ Weapons of Mass Destruction ”)*

“ The XXIst International Conference of the Red Cross, considering that the first and basic aim of the Red Cross is to protect mankind from the terrible suffering caused by armed conflicts, taking into account the danger threatening mankind in the form of new techniques of warfare, particularly weapons of mass destruction, confirming the resolutions adopted by the International Conferences of the Red Cross as well as the United Nations General Assembly Resolutions Nos. 2162 (XXI), 2444 (XXIII) and 2454 (XXIII) and Resolution No. XXIII of the International Conference on Human Rights of 1968,

considering that the adoption of a special agreement on the prohibition of weapons of mass destruction would be an important contribution to the development of international humanitarian law, requests the United Nations to pursue its efforts in this field,

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requests the ICRC to continue to devote great attention to this question, consistent with its work for the reaffirmation and development of humanitarian law and to take every step it deems possible,

renews its appeal to the Governments of States which have not yet done so to accede to the 1925 Geneva Protocol and to comply strictly with its provisions,

urges Governments to conclude as rapidly as possible an agreement banning the production and stockpiling of chemical and bacteriological weapons.”

The most recent ICRC appeal on 27 July 1966¹² was followed by resolutions adopted at the UN General Assemblies of the same year and of 1968. The effect of these measures was to induce a score of States to accede. This was an appreciable success, since before 1966 no more than 49 States were parties to the Protocol.

The ICRC has recently again drawn the attention of the governments of those States that are not yet parties to the Geneva Protocol to Istanbul Resolution XIV and in particular to operative paragraph 3. It has also noted with interest the official steps being taken in a few countries to bring about their accession to the said Protocol in the near future.

V. Activities of International Organizations

United Nations Organization

The question of the adoption of a special agreement prohibiting the production and storage (and use?) of biological and chemical weapons is now being dealt with by the United Nations (in particular by the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament) which is carrying on the work in this field started by the League of Nations.

A number of resolutions on this subject were adopted by the General Assembly¹³. The last of these directed the Secretary-

¹² See *International Review of the Red Cross*, February 1967, p. 59, and January 1968, p. 3.

¹³ These resolutions were adopted as follows:
No. 2162 B: For 91; Against 0; Abstentions 26.
No. 2444: unanimously.
No. 2454: For 107; Against 0; Abstentions 26.

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General to draw up, with expert assistance, a report on chemical and biological weapons. In this report¹⁴, published in July 1969, U Thant urged member States to take the following steps:

1. to renew the appeal to all States to accede to the Geneva Protocol of 1925;
2. to make a clear affirmation that the prohibition contained in the Geneva Protocol applies to the use in war of all chemical, bacteriological and biological agents (including tear gas and other harassing agents), which now exist or which may be developed in the future;
3. to call upon all countries to reach agreement to halt the development, production and stockpiling of all chemical and bacteriological (biological) agents for the purpose of war, and effectively to eliminate them from their arsenals.

This important document was followed by a resolution adopted on 16 December 1969 at the General Assembly¹⁵. It recognizes the existence of an international customary law standard¹⁶ prohibiting the use of all forms of biological and chemical weapons in international armed conflicts. On the grounds of a broad interpretation, and irrespective of whatever technical developments may be evolved, it condemns the use of all chemical and biological weapons in international armed conflicts as being contrary to international law.

Two main draft Conventions were submitted to the Disarmament Conference: a Soviet draft entitled "Draft Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Chemical and Bacteriological (Biological) weapons and on the Destruction of such Weapons" (A/7685) and a British "Draft

These three resolutions are to be found in the annex to our report DS4 a, b, e: "Reaffirmation and Development of the Laws and Customs applicable in Armed Conflicts".

¹⁴ Report of the Secretary-General on Chemical and Bacteriological (Biological) Weapons and the Effects of their Possible Use. A/7575, 1 July 1969.

¹⁵ No. 2603A. Adopted by 80 in favour, 3 against, with 36 abstentions.

¹⁶ According to ICRC Press Release No. 829, of 2 June 1967: "... the ICRC doctors, on arrival at the site, immediately gave treatment to some of the wounded and collected indications pointing to the use of poison gas. Extremely disturbed and concerned by these methods of warfare which are absolutely forbidden by codified international and customary law, the ICRC at once communicated its delegates' reports to all authorities concerned... requesting them to take the solemn engagement not to resort in any circumstances whatsoever to the use of asphyxiating gases or any other similar toxic substances".

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Convention for the Prohibition of Biological Methods of Warfare" (CCD/255 Rev.1)

The question of non-international armed conflicts is still unsolved. It is to be hoped that studies on that subject will not be abandoned, particularly as this type of conflict has increasingly occurred since the Second World War (the Special Committee on Disarmament of the Non-Governmental Organizations¹⁷ passed a resolution in Geneva on 19 February 1970, in operative paragraph 2 of which it invites governments to apply the Geneva Protocol in all armed conflicts, that is, in both international and non-international armed conflicts).

World Health Organization

WHO has just made a significant contribution to the study of this question in the shape of a recently published report by a group of consultants¹⁸, entitled, as already stated, *Health Aspects of Chemical and Biological Weapons*, Geneva 1970. Its conclusions are attached. (This study gives a more specialized appreciation than that of the UN Secretary-General. It supplements an interim report that the Director of WHO had transmitted to U Thant and this final report, A/7575, incorporates part of the information contained in the earlier report.)

Aware of the fact that the use of biological and chemical agents for military purposes could disturb ecological processes sufficiently to threaten the very existence of civilization as we know it, the delegates of the XXIIIrd World Health Assembly, May 1970, adopted a resolution concerning these weapons (WHA 25.53 of 21 May 1970).

It stressed the importance of prohibiting the development, manufacture and stockpiling of biological and chemical weapons as swiftly as possible under the auspices of the UN and to destroy existing stockpiles as a measure indispensable to the success of the efforts being made to improve man's health situation.

¹⁷ Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council.

¹⁸ Several of the consultants had already submitted papers to the London Conference on Biological and Chemical Warfare (cf. *International Review of the Red Cross*, March 1970).

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Apart from this theoretical study, WHO will perhaps be called upon in the future to play a vital and practical supervisory role: "Finally, there is the possibility that WHO might be called upon by the United Nations to help deal with allegations of use of chemical and biological weapons between nations and to assist in the limitation of chemical and biological weapons, and disarmament. The technical resources of WHO could contribute greatly to the resolution of many of the difficulties that are associated with these problems and are now being discussed within the framework of the United Nations" ¹⁹.

Conclusion

Thus, while the United Nations continues its work ²⁰, the Red Cross continues to devote keen attention to this question. It is, in the first place, for the United Nations to proscribe the production, storage and use of specific weapons. As in the past, the Red Cross continues to uphold the rules that protect the individual during armed conflicts. Above all, it ensures the protection, respect and humane treatment of all persons *hors de combat* or not participating in the hostilities, sparing them needless suffering. These diverse criteria may sometimes oblige the Red Cross to express its views on a given weapon, whether indiscriminate or not. The National Red Cross, Red Crescent and Red Lion and Sun Societies, the ICRC, the League and the International Conference of the Red Cross continue, in keeping with their long traditions, to support with all their authority, in parallel with their efforts in the cause of peace, the struggle against biological and chemical warfare by negotiations with governments and by better informing public opinion.

It is to be hoped that the aforesaid anniversary of the Geneva Protocol will provide those States that have not yet acceded an

¹⁹ See *Health Aspects of Chemical and Biological Weapons*, pp. 20-21, Section 9.

²⁰ It would be unjust not to mention the remarkable studies carried out by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), which will shortly be bringing out a six-volume publication *The problem of chemical and biological warfare*. Part I—History; Part II—Weapons, military doctrines, national policies; Part III—CBW at the League of Nations and the United Nations, 1920-1969; Part IV—Verification; Part V—International Law; Part VI—Possible steps to avoid CB warfare.

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excellent opportunity to do so, and that it will also be a solemn reminder to all States that the customary law rules it embodies must be respected at all times, in all places and in all circumstances.

Jean MIRIMANOFF
Attorney-at-Law
Member of the ICRC
Legal Department

Annexes

List of Resolutions relative to Non-discriminating Weapons, adopted by International Conferences of the Red Cross

<i>Conference</i>	<i>Place</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Resolutions</i>
Xth	Geneva	1921	XII
XIIth	Geneva	1925	V
XIIIth	The Hague	1928	V/VI
XIVth	Brussels	1930	V
XVth	Tokyo	1934	(XVIII) XXXVI
XVIIth	Stockholm	1948	XXIV
XVIIIth	Toronto	1952	XVII/XVIII
XIXth	New Delhi	1957	XVIII
XXth	Vienna	1965	XXVIII
XXIst	Istanbul	1969	XIV (XX)

Other, similar, resolutions have also been adopted by the Board of Governors of the League, of which the most important was unanimously adopted at the XXIIIrd Session in Oslo, 1954.

*

Conclusions of the WHO Report

“ Health aspects of chemical and biological weapons ”¹

1. Chemical and biological weapons pose a special threat to civilians. This is because of the often indiscriminate nature of such weapons, and because the high concentrations in which they would be used in military operations could lead to significant unintended involvement of the civilian population within the target area and for considerable distances downwind.
2. The large-scale or, with some agents, even limited use of chemical and biological weapons could cause illness to a degree that would overwhelm existing health resources and facilities.
3. Large-scale use of chemical and biological weapons could also cause lasting changes of an unpredictable nature in man's environment.
4. The possible effects of chemical and biological weapons are subject to a high degree of uncertainty and unpredictability, owing to the involvement of complex and extremely variable meteorological, physiological, epidemiological, ecological, and other factors.
5. Although advanced weapons systems would be required for the employment of chemical and biological agents on a militarily significant scale against large civilian targets, isolated and sabotage attacks not requiring highly sophisticated weapons systems could be effective against such targets in certain circumstances with some of these agents.

¹ Geneva, 1970.

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

EXTERNAL ACTIVITIES

Middle East

Israel and the Occupied Territories

The Mission of the Delegate General for the Middle East.—Mr. André Rochat, Delegate General of the ICRC for the Middle East, travelled to Israel on 15 April for a one-month stay.

On his arrival in Tel-Aviv, the Delegate General, accompanied by Mr. F. Payot, in charge in Geneva of the Middle East theatre of operations, was welcomed by an official delegation including members of the Israeli Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Defence. Mr. Rochat, Mr. Payot and Mr. Moreillon, Head of the ICRC delegation in Israel, were then received by Mr. Zalman Shazar, the Head of State.

On 30 April, Mr. Rochat met the Israeli Prime Minister, Mrs. Golda Meir, and on 3 May, the Minister of Defence, General Moshé Dayan. They also had interviews with Mr. Abba Eban, Minister of Foreign Affairs, and Mr. Schlomo Hillel, Minister of Police.

Several days were devoted by the Delegate General to visiting the various ICRC sub-delegations in Israeli and in the occupied territories, as well as to working sessions with the delegates.

Visit to prisoners of war.—Whilst in Israel, Mr. F. Payot visited, on 19 April, 69 Egyptian and 10 Lebanese prisoners of war at the Sarafand military camp.

Relief to Prisoners.—The eighth series of prison visits in Israel and the occupied territories was carried out from 11 March to 15 April 1970.

The ICRC delegates visited 14 prisons, namely: the Gaza prison, the prisons on the West bank of the Jordan at Nablus,

Tulkarem, Jenin, Ramallah and Hebron; the Israeli prisons of Damoun, Remleh, Chattah, Neve-Tirza, Kfar-Yona, Ashkelon, Beer-Sheba and the Maasiahu camp. They saw 3,526 Arab detainees and interviewed those of their choice without witnesses.

Standard ICRC parcels containing clothing, fruit and biscuits, were handed to those detainees who had not received family visits for three months.

As customary, reports on these visits are sent to the Detaining Power and to the prisoners' own government.

Repatriation and Family Reunion.—On 6 May 1970, the ICRC carried out a repatriation and family reunion operation across the Suez Canal with the help of the ICRC Delegate General for the Middle East.

124 persons crossed the canal from West to East to be reunited with their families in the occupied territory of Gaza, while 60 people from the occupied territory of Gaza-Sinai were reunited with their families on the West bank of the canal.

37 Egyptian seamen and one civilian, interned for several months in Israel, were set free and repatriated under the auspices of the ICRC.

Finally, the bodies of two Egyptian pilots and three soldiers were handed over to the authorities of the United Arab Republic.

Liberation of Prisoners.—As a result of the steps taken by the ICRC Delegate General in the Middle East, 55 Arab prisoners, of Palestinian origin, captured by the Israeli armed forces on 21 March 1968 at Karameh, on the East bank of the Jordan, were freed and repatriated on 13 May 1970 under the auspices of the ICRC delegates in Israel and Jordan.

A number of other Palestinian combatants, captured during the same operation, had already been freed through the intervention of the ICRC. The ICRC had requested the Israeli authorities to grant these detainees, who had been captured during a battle, treatment similar to that of prisoners of war, in conformity with the humanitarian provisions of the IIIrd Geneva Convention.

While in captivity, these prisoners were visited many times by the ICRC delegates.

United Arab Republic

Visit to prisoners of war.—On 3 and 4 May 1970, the four Israeli prisoners of war (an officer, a pilot and two civilians attached to the Israeli armed forces) were visited for the fourth time by the ICRC delegate in Cairo.

Repatriation of the dead.—The ICRC delegates on 26 April repatriated the mortal remains of three Egyptian soldiers who had been killed in recent fighting near the Suez Canal. This operation took place at Ismailia on the Canal.

Lebanon

Repatriation of Prisoners.—On 9 May, an Arab civilian of Israeli nationality was captured by Palestinian fighters who handed him over to the Lebanese authorities. After being visited by the ICRC delegate at Beirut, this civilian was repatriated on 14 May 1970 through the International Committee at Roshanikra.

After an Israeli military operation on 12 May, five Lebanese civilians were taken prisoner by the Israeli armed forces. These detainees were visited by the delegates of the ICRC in Israel and were repatriated at Roshanikra on 19 May. A Lebanese soldier, captured at the same time as the civilians, was also visited by representatives of the International Committee on 21 May.

Finally, during this operation, about ten Palestinian fighters were taken prisoner. The ICRC took immediate steps to visit them.

Jordan

On 30 April 1970, ICRC delegates in Jordan visited for the third time an Israeli detainee captured on 1 January 1970 by Palestinian combatants. They talked with him in private.

Syria

On 5 May, at Kuneitra, an operation to reunite families enabled four persons to rejoin their families in the occupied territory of the Golan Heights.



150th anniversary
of the birth of
Florence Nightingale :

On behalf of the International Red Cross, Angela, Countess of Limerick, on 12 May 1970, laid a wreath on the Florence Nightingale memorial in London.

Photo John Warburton, London



Aden, June 1969, unloading powdered milk.

Aircraft carry ICRC relief from Geneva to the Arabian Peninsula

Sana'a March 1970, unloading medical supplies.



Arab Republic of the Yemen

Relief Distribution.—Continuing a task begun several years ago, the ICRC delegates in the Arab Republic of the Yemen made a series of distributions of cheese and powdered milk in various Yemeni hospitals during March and April 1970. About 4,300 persons received these relief supplies, which, for the above-mentioned period, totalled 6.5 tons of powdered milk and 1,650 kilos of cheese.¹

Limb Fitting Workshop.—The ICRC limb fitting workshop is now almost complete. Young Yemenis are already receiving technical training in the manufacture of apparatus. The workshop will be in a position to commence operations at the beginning of June.

The Hospital at Khamer.—The ICRC medical team, which has been operating in the tiny village of Khamer since 9 March 1970, tends an average of 50 patients a day. Each week, two days are devoted to operations. The doctors have noted a significant reduction in the number of war-wounded since hostilities ended.

On 22 May 1970, Dr. C. Frascani, Miss G. Pythoud, anaesthetist, and Mr. B. Kuhn, medical orderly, left Geneva for Khamer to take over from Dr. R. Jakob's team.

Republic of Vietnam

In March, the ICRC delegates in the Republic of Vietnam visited several places of detention.

They went to three re-education centres run by the South-Vietnamese armed forces at Ham Tan in the Binh Tuy province, at Phuoc-Le in the Phuoc Tuy province and Tan An in the Long-An province. They also visited prisoner-of-war camps at Pleiku and Can-Tho, also run by the armed forces of the Republic of Vietnam.

During April 1970, the ICRC delegates in the Republic of Vietnam visited six places of detention in which they enquired into the prisoners' living conditions.

They were the sorting centres at Nui Dat near Phuoc-Le (administered by the Australian armed forces), at Tay-Ninh

¹ *Plate.*—Aircraft carry ICRC relief from Geneva to the Arabian Peninsula.

(administered by the American armed forces), Bear Cat, near the village of Long Tanh (administered by the royal Thailand armed forces) and the re-education centres of Moc Hoa, capital of the province of Kien-Tuong, of Cao Lanh, capital of the province of Kieng-Phong, and of Go Cong, all three administered by the Vietnamese armed forces.

The reports drawn up after these visits are sent by the ICRC to the detaining authorities.

Cambodia

Aid for the Victims of the Conflict.—After the incidents of 18 March 1970, the ICRC received a request for aid from the Cambodian Red Cross in the shape of pharmaceutical products, surgical instruments, clothing, bedding and vehicles.

At the same time, the ICRC general delegation for the Far East was undertaking in Phnom-Penh an initial analysis of the situation and of the urgent requirements, before the arrival in the Cambodian capital of a special mission sent from Geneva.

This special mission included Dr. Roland Marti, senior ICRC medical officer, Dr. Jean-Maurice Rübli, medical adviser, and Mr. André Beaud, Head of the ICRC Relief Service. It reached Cambodia on 13 May.

Two representatives of the League of Red Cross Societies, Mr. Seevaratnam and Mr. Vittani, joined the team sent by the International Committee, in order to decide jointly on the relief requirements of the country and to co-ordinate the activities of the two bodies.

The delegates visited three Cambodian centres for disaster victims, a collection centre for Vietnamese as well as civilian and military hospitals.

The Application of the Geneva Conventions.—The ICRC received the necessary assurances from the Phnom-Penh authorities for its delegates to have access to all categories of victims.

At the same time, the ICRC contacted Prince Norodom Sihanouk, Head of the “Front uni national du Kamputcha (FUNK)”. His Highness informed the ICRC that he would submit the ICRC

letter to the "Gouvernement royal d'Union nationale" presided by Samdech Penn Nouth, whom he requested the ICRC to contact.

The International Committee therefore made the same requests to the "Gouvernement royal d'Union nationale" as it had already made to Prince Norodom Sihanouk.

It also took advantage of this opportunity to transmit to Samdech Penn Nouth the list of 19 persons who disappeared at the beginning of April and about whom the Central Tracing Agency of the ICRC had received pressing requests for news.

Central America

Nicaragua

From 2 to 8 April 1970, Mr. E. Leemann, ICRC delegate, visited several places of detention in Nicaragua: the air-force prison at Managua, the social rehabilitation penal centre at Tipitapa, the Polvora prison, the prison for women, the rehabilitation centre for minors at Granada, and two prisons at Leon, "La 21" prison of the 5th Battalion and the National Guard departmental command.

In these various places of detention, he saw 34 persons detained for political reasons or offences.

Costa Rica

The delegate went to the prison for women and the central penitentiary at San José where there were imprisoned, apart from six guerilleros, dozens of persons who had been arrested during the events of 24th April last and since released.

During the last thirteen months, therefore, ICRC representatives have visited places of detention in all Central American countries.

Panama

From 30 April to 6 May 1970, Mr. E. Leemann was in Panama where he met members of the Government and the leaders of the National Red Cross Society.

The representative of the ICRC also visited the "Cárcel modelo

de Panama ” and spoke in private with 29 detainees jailed for political reasons.

The report on the visit is transmitted by the ICRC to the detaining authorities.

Brazil

The International Red Cross medical mission to the Amazon, led by Mr. Serge Nessi, Delegate General of the ICRC for Latin America, is composed of three doctors, B. Aakerren, S. Bakker and R. Habersang, and a Swiss ethnologist, Mr. R. Fürst. They first spent some days in Rio de Janeiro to complete preparations for the expedition, mainly concerning their means of transport.

On 16 May, the team started off on the first stage of its journey, which would take them to the Ilhado Bananal reservation, on the northern frontier of the States of Mato Grosso and Goias. This “open” reservation, with an area of 22,000 square kilometres, is freely accessible. The area is inhabited by up to 2,000 Indians, who live in contact with civilization.

Cameroun

With the approval of the Cameroun authorities, the International Committee opened its regional delegation for West Africa at Yaoundé.

The arrival of the ICRC permanent delegate in the capital coincided with the festivities organized by the Cameroun Red Cross for World Red Cross Day. After visiting the headquarters of the National Society Mr. André Tschiffeli was received in audience by Dr. Tchoungui, Prime Minister of East Cameroun and President of the Red Cross.

Lesotho

On 23 April 1970, Mr. Georges Hoffmann, Delegate General of the ICRC for Africa, visited the central prison of Maseru, capital of Lesotho.

The representative of the International Committee saw 144 prisoners jailed during the recent disturbances. The report drawn

up after this visit has, as is customary, been transmitted to the detaining Power.

Greece

The International Committee of the Red Cross publishes its communications periodically. Under the terms of the agreement signed in Athens on 3 November 1969, these press releases contain no opinions on delegates' findings in Greece. Those findings, as customary, are conveyed immediately to the Greek Government.

In April the International Committee of the Red Cross continued the mission it began on 24 November 1969, consistent with the agreement concluded with the Greek Government.

Its delegates visited the EGINE prison (Gendarmerie, 1 April), the Aghios Pavlos and Aghios Savas hospitals (Athens police, 8 and 10 April), the Trikala prison (Gendarmerie, 9 and 28 April), the Drossia and Varibopi Hotels (Gendarmerie militaire, 13 April), the Police Commissariat in Bouboulinas Street in Athens (Athens police, 14 April), the penitentiary section of the Athens General Hospital (Athens police, 15 April), the Corfu Prison (police, 16 April) the Alikarnassos camp in Crete (Gendarmerie, 17 April), the Korydalos Prison (Athens police, 21 April), the Sotiria Sanatorium (Athens police, 22 April), and the men's section of the Averof Prison (Athens police, 23 April).

In all these places of detention the ICRC delegates were able to move about freely and talk in private with detainees of their own choice.

On the other hand, they were not given access in April to the Military Commissariats of ESA Vassilissis Sophias and ESA Aghios Ioannis Rentis.

In April, 112 persons visited the ICRC Delegation in Athens seeking family news. In addition, 610 needy families from Attica and 420 from Salonica were given material assistance by the ICRC in co-operation with the Ministry of Social Affairs and the Hellenic Red Cross.

The Delegation, which has been led since 14 March by Mr. Max Stalder, comprises two delegates and a doctor-delegate; all are Swiss.

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

At its plenary session on 14 May 1970, the International Committee of the Red Cross elected Mr. Victor H. Umbricht as a new member.

Mr. Umbricht was born at Untersiggenthal in the canton of Aargau in 1915. After studying at various universities he obtained a doctorate in international law. He was a member of the Tribunal of Baden and then, from 1941 to 1953, was in the Swiss diplomatic service. He subsequently became assistant director of operations at the World Bank, Washington, for Europe, Africa, Asia and Australia. In 1957 he was appointed Director of the Federal Administration of Finances in Bern.

After undertaking a mission for the United Nations in the Congo, he became President of the CIBA Corporation in the United States from 1962 to 1964, when he became a member of the Board of CIBA SA in Basle.

The advice of M. Victor H. Umbricht will be particularly useful to the International Committee, which is happy to have the benefit of this new member's collaboration in the humanitarian work of the Red Cross.

International Tracing Service

Mr. Nicolas Burckhardt, Director of the International Tracing Service, will be leaving his post at the end of June 1970. The position, which he has occupied since 1955, will immediately be taken over by Mr. Albert de Cocatrix, who is at present Assistant Director.

At the plenary session of the ICRC on 14 May, the President of the International Committee recalled the important tasks Mr. Burckhardt had carried out in the service of the Red Cross since 1936. He was firstly member of the ICRC Secretariat and then of the Central Prisoners of War Agency; since 1944 he has been an ICRC delegate in many places in Europe and Asia.

Mr. M. A. Naville recalled Mr. Burckhardt's characteristic keen sense of duty, of which he has given ample proof during his fifteen years at Arosen. The President then congratulated Mr. Burckhardt and expressed the sincere gratitude of the ICRC.

Training Courses for Delegates

The ICRC organized its first "training course for delegates" in Geneva from 11 to 14 May.

The theory lessons (humanitarian law, Geneva Conventions) and practical lessons (delegates' activities on mission), which were introduced by various ICRC collaborators, the Swiss Red Cross and medical experts, were prepared in close collaboration with the Henry Dunant Institute. During the seminar, Professor O. Reverdin gave a lecture on the subject "Switzerland and the concept of neutrality".

IN THE RED CROSS WORLD

EUROPEAN REGIONAL CONFERENCE

The Red Cross and the Evolution of Modern Europe

This was the general subject of the European Regional Red Cross Conference which was held in Cannes, France, from 20 to 25 April 1970 under the chairmanship of Mr. Marcellin Carraud, President of the French Red Cross. Apart from the delegates of 28 National Societies, the President of the Standing Commission of the International Red Cross as well as the leading lights of the League of Red Cross Societies and the ICRC were present. It was the first regional Conference in Europe since the one held in Belgrade, in 1947.

The meeting, which was organized by the French Red Cross under the auspices of the League of Red Cross Societies, was convened to examine the Red Cross programmes for the preparation and co-ordination of relief operations after disasters, medico-social activities in industrialized urban society, the contribution of Youth to the work of the Red Cross and the latter's progress in developing countries.

The opening session took place on 20 April in the Palais des Festivals. M^{lle} Marie-Madeleine Dienesch, representing the French Government, presided over the opening and the Prince and Princess of Liechtenstein as well as the Princess of Monaco graced the occasion with their presence. There were several speeches and we have quoted from them below :

Mr. M. Carraud, President of the French Red Cross: . . . It has become the custom to hold periodical regional Conferences with the aim of studying various problems that concern some countries more specifically. The Red Cross is, beyond doubt, universal, and its function is to take part in the struggle against the suffering of mankind throughout the entire world. But the Societies that constitute our movement may nevertheless benefit from meetings restricted to particular geographical areas, where they may exchange experiences and at the same time seek ways to improve co-operation among themselves, and thus ensure that the links of solidarity forged by our Societies around the world may continue to grow in strength and efficacy. . .

. . . The Red Cross has accomplished many great achievements, in the past as well as in more recent years. But, the more successes it scores, the more is society exacting in its attitude towards it. The Red Cross is expected to be present everywhere and to be capable of coping with ever more extensive and complex missions. It is essential, therefore, that it should be constantly moving forward.

Such results clearly cannot be attained unless a study in depth is made of the problems that have to be solved and of the methods to be applied.

A Conference on the lines of the one about to be opened today enables substantial progress to be made in this respect. While broadening the base of friendship that unites our Societies, it cannot but add to the force that sustains our movement in its development. . .

Mr. A. Vouillon, Mayor of Cannes: . . . Truly, André François-Poncet was right in saying that the story of Henry Dunant and the Red Cross was in the nature of a miracle. But it was, nevertheless, a "miracle" that was definitely not gratuitous.

It was born in the consciences and hearts of men, and day by day, you are fashioning it with your own hands.

I do hope that this Conference of Cannes, like that of 1919, will constitute for you, who are the promoters of Peace, and who stretch out your hand to peoples whose development is still impeded by ignorance, prejudice and want, a further step forward towards a future freed from at least some of the afflictions that still darken our present life.

Mr. J. Barroso, Chairman of the Board of Governors of the League of Red Cross Societies: . . . We have need of a good dose of optimism, security, hope. Technical progress is opening up new roads for us by reducing the field of the unknown and increasing the domination of man over nature.

In the field of science man is continually discovering new methods in his desire to prolong life. But what is the use of this tremendous effort if, in the most ridiculous paradox of his history, man also perfects the machine that may bring about his destruction?

Sometimes, when the sound of gunfire smothers our cry for peace and we feel the weight of our powerlessness to avoid war, we think that man has really lost his sense of direction.

It is not possible, it cannot be possible that after such bitter experiences we still believe that war is a solution.

Man's predominant interest should be man.

On many occasions, while Chairman of the World Federation of Red Cross Societies, I have insisted on the need for finding a formula which can lead us to the state of equilibrium desired to make peace possible. The Federation itself has adopted important resolutions bearing on this at its international meetings, and again today I wish to enjoin all the European Societies to present a common front, strong in principles and in action, so that these resolutions, especially those that we adopted during our last Conference in Istanbul, become the reality for which we are hoping.

Uncertainty breeds anxiety and agitation among the young generations. The lack of wisdom which governs the acts of adults wrecks the theoretical attempts at guidance and bad example destroys the noble aspirations of this generation which, in a very short time, will take the reins of our world.

Youth must be aware of this situation and must decide to face the future without renouncing its ideals. Only a youth which is healthy and clean, which rejects excess and vice, fights violence not by violence but by the spirit of service, a youth capable of sacrificing itself for others, trained to do good and which is able to handle its own destiny, only such a youth can give back to humanity the conscience that it has lost.

The youth of the world asks us for a reason for acting: what better reason could we give it than the necessity to be better than ourselves? Fortunately, some institutions, like ours, have remained faithful to their principles. In the Red Cross we have accumulated good will and put it completely at the disposal of our youth, in

order that by turning it to account they may succeed in their noble aspirations. . .

Mr. M. A. Naville, President of the International Committee of the Red Cross: . . . We should now ask ourselves whether the moment has not come to undertake a sincere, lucid and methodical examination of the Red Cross's state of health. It is unthinkable that such a large and complex body as the Red Cross should be immune from the effects of the changes going on in the world. It would even be regrettable if Red Cross thinking were as an isolated lagoon, undisturbed by currents from the deep. We all know that the world is in mutation. All kinds of instincts, demands and imaginings have been released. So many principles considered sacrosanct, so many pretexts on which the world has long based its easy conscience, have been thrown overboard. Even the nature of war has changed: violence is perpetrated in the name of justice, and those who would claim innocence think their only choice lies between drug-taking or suicide by fire. Perhaps we are too inclined to believe that in the twilight of so many principles, those of the Red Cross shine on undimmed.

We are not gathered here for self-reproach, or to take stock of shortcomings, but to recognize the need for a study bearing on the future. We must redefine not only the why and the wherefore of Red Cross, but redefine also our methods. Through a joint analysis and recourse to sources of new inspiration, we must endeavour to find out what is still valid, alive and productive, what must be changed, and what must be discarded. Then we shall perhaps be better placed to reply to the fundamental questions which prompted the compiling of this meeting's agenda: to help youth in its quest for the absolute, to reconcile man with his environment, to ensure that relief shall not be hindered; which means restoring communication among men. And thus we shall be the better able to defend and promote those values which we hold dear, among the foremost of which is fellowship.

Mlle M.-M. Dienesch, Secretary of State for Social Welfare: . . . It is really remarkable that only 5 years after a modest Genevese citizen, without any official position, had become aware of the problems posed by aid to wounded soldiers, was it possible to sign the first Geneva Convention, a truly novel diplomatic instrument as it created an original chapter of the law of nations. Humanitarian Law, as it has since been called, was, as we know,

to be developed in later conventions which resulted in the fundamental ensemble of the four Geneva Conventions of 1949.

It should be emphasized that this legal dynamism is due in great part to the International Committee of the Red Cross, centenarian pillar composed of Swiss citizens, guardian of the Conventions and final resort of all victims of all wars. This Committee is today continuing with resolution the work undertaken, under the leadership of President NAVILLE, whom I am pleased to welcome on this platform.

The task of building up humanitarian law is indeed still on the stocks, like the sociology of war itself. Today, peace is more and more often endangered without any violation of frontiers. Guerilla actions are tending to replace conventional conflicts. This does not make the interpretation and application of the Geneva Conventions any easier. It is all the more necessary that their principles should be known and respected, principles which are nothing but an extension of the well-known yet badly applied maxim: "Do unto others as you would they should do unto you". In our world full of noise and fury, where violence is finding more and more devotees, the Geneva law is like a fragile rampart that all men of good will must strengthen. I hope that the International Red Cross can contribute to this while remaining the sheltered haven from political storms that it has always been, as it is from its uncompromising neutrality that it draws its moral prestige and, in the end, its justification...

The work of the Conference was distributed among three Commissions (Relief—Medico-social and Youth problems—Development), whose work was based on reports presented by the League and by various National Societies. On this point, there is a very apposite passage from the report presented by the Belgian Red Cross which concerns the missions that the Red Cross can accomplish and the principles governing them.

1. The primary mission of the Red Cross is to be ready to discharge its obligations in time of war, for which it should prepare in peacetime. Its other duties, extensive and important as they are, are secondary. They shall not in any way delay or hinder the discharge of that mission.
2. The missions which the Red Cross undertakes shall in no way conflict with the basic principles by which it is governed. They

shall not, *inter alia*, jeopardize or impair its independence and impartiality.

3. The Red Cross, by the nature of its statutes, is an auxiliary to the public authorities; it may not thereby claim a monopoly in philanthropy or in medico-social work. Not only should it "leave other organizations to act alone if they are fully qualified to do so and it is in the interest of those helped" (J.Pictet: "Red Cross Principles", p. 118), but it must guard against the dangerous dispersal of its efforts which would render it ineffective.
4. The Red Cross must be continuously watchful that suffering is not left unremedied. Our institution must be ready to act when no other can do so.
The Red Cross must rectify any shortcomings, whilst at the same time doing pioneer work without, however, being obliged to continue an undertaking if other bodies carry it out properly-
5. In all missions it undertakes, the Red Cross must be constantly concerned to discharge them in a voluntary spirit and with dedication.

Finally, in the plenary session, several resolutions were adopted. We have quoted them because they reflect the essential concerns of the Conference and the ways to meet them that were put forward. They also demonstrate, as did the Istanbul Resolutions, the need today for the Red Cross to rethink its plan of action in an ever-changing world.

I

The Red Cross—Symbol of an Undivided World

The European Regional Red Cross Conference,

Considering that the primary mission of the Red Cross consists in arousing in mankind the feeling of solidarity and the desire to participate actively in any mutual assistance action,

Noting that these ideas have not yet sufficiently penetrated into the different circles responsible for the future of the European continent and the world, and that this situation gives rise to concern,

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Takes note with satisfaction that the community of European Red Cross Societies has given further proof, on the occasion of this Conference, of a spirit devoid of all political or similar discrimination,

Thanks the French Red Cross for its initiative and its invitation which has enabled all the European Red Cross Societies to revive awareness of this community,

Takes advantage of this occasion to propose that the League of Red Cross Societies and all the National Societies be inspired by the following theme for a World Red Cross Day: *The Red Cross—Symbol of an Undivided World*¹

II

National and International Disaster Relief Preparedness

The European Regional Red Cross Conference,

In view of Resolution 24, adopted by the XXIst International Conference of the Red Cross, entitled "Principles and Rules for Red Cross Disaster Relief" and governing Red Cross relief actions in the event of disaster, and the obligations which that resolution imposes on National Societies,

Considering the urgent necessity of adapting Red Cross machinery to undertake action appropriate to the particular conditions on the European continent facing demographic, social and industrial evolution,

1. Recommends National Societies to implement these Principles and Rules in a prompt and practical manner, particularly by requesting the Governments of their countries to respect them by mobilizing all their resources for putting them into action,
2. Regrets to note that some countries still have no national relief plan and urges the National Societies of those countries to do everything possible to ensure that such plans are drawn up, in which the National Society should in any case be integrated, in conformity with Red Cross Principles,
3. Urges National Societies to conclude with neighbouring countries agreements for mutual assistance in the event of disaster, and to encourage their Government to do likewise, leading to

¹ The theme chosen for World Red Cross Day in 1971 is: *Red Cross Working Round the Clock.*

more general agreements throughout Europe, and requests the League to provide a guide for National Societies on such agreements,

4. Attributes great importance to informing and educating the public on how to act in case of disaster and encourages National Societies to draw up and disseminate, with the assistance of the League, elementary rules covering both the action to be taken by spectators and the participation, in the interests of their own safety, of those directly affected by disasters.
5. Considers it essential to interest youth in relief work and, in particular, recommends National Societies to integrate youth into relief organizations so that they may be entrusted with responsibilities commensurate with their abilities, both for decision-making and implementation,
6. Invites National Societies to keep up-to-date, and communicate to the League an inventory of their resources in kind for relief actions, stating which of these they can make available for international action and under what conditions,
7. Considers it essential for National Societies and the League to maintain a continuous exchange of information on their ideas, their achievements, their experiences and the studies which they have made or are making in relief work.

III

Red Cross Participation in the Improvement of Human Environment

The European Regional Red Cross Conference,

Considering that the extraordinary speed of industrialization and the unprecedented development of technology, whilst enabling humanity to improve its living conditions by providing it with material facilities better adapted to its needs has, on the other hand, led to a serious deterioration of the human environment,

Considering that this deterioration is becoming increasingly acute,

Convinced that efforts on a national and international scale are necessary to improve this state of affairs,

Recalling Resolution No. XXXV adopted at the XXth International Conference at Vienna recommending National Societies to

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establish or extend their health, education and social welfare programmes,

Requests the Health and Social Service Advisory Committee of the League to study these problems, to put forward suggestions and work out proposals on active Red Cross participation in the improvement of the human environment.

IV

Red Cross Activities for the Handicapped and Elderly

The European Regional Red Cross Conference,

Having heard reports on various medico-social activities undertaken by National Societies in European countries,

Considering that medico-social work by National Societies should particularly benefit the physically, mentally and socially handicapped as well as elderly persons, through direct, human and personal action to supplement appropriately the work of the public authorities with special emphasis on prevention and health education,

Aware that medico-social needs are increasing very rapidly,

Asserts that the medico-social activities of Red Cross Societies should be integrated into an overall policy and a health and social plan which it is for responsible authorities to determine and in which they should associate National Red Cross Societies, providing if necessary the financial means, whilst at the same time respecting their independence and autonomy,

Recommends National Red Cross Societies therefore:

1. to intensify their work of informing the public on these problems,
2. to step up their contacts with the authorities to make them more aware of the increasing importance of medico-social problems,
3. to continue work for the benefit of the under-privileged and to promote their integration into normal life through better education of the public.

V

Participation of Youth in Community Service Activities

The European Regional Red Cross Conference,

Bearing in mind the importance of developing a humanitarian spirit amongst youth,

Considering that the Red Cross should offer young people the opportunity to develop a sense of community service, awaken their interest in Red Cross activities and thereby facilitate and promote their eventual integration into National Societies,

Recognizing the importance of involving the greatest possible number of young people in Red Cross activities,

Recommends that National Societies, with a view to increasing and intensifying the part which youth may and should take in its work, offer schools, youth organizations and unorganized youth the opportunity to take part in their community service activities without necessarily requiring of young people prior or subsequent formal membership of National Societies.

VI

**Participation of European National Societies
in the League Red Cross Development Programme**

The European Regional Red Cross Conference,

Considering that the problem of promoting the well-being of mankind represents one of the key problems of development in the contemporary world, the solution of which has an essential influence on the preservation of world peace,

Considering that one of the purposes of Red Cross activity is to contribute to the safeguarding of world peace and to co-operation between all peoples on a basis of equality and humanity,

Considering that the Red Cross can contribute to the progress of the developing countries in the sphere of health and social welfare, especially through the creation and strengthening of the National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in these countries,

Considering that the Development Programme constitutes one of the most significant action programmes of the Red Cross on the national and international level and it is necessary to expand and increase it,

IN THE RED CROSS WORLD

Considering that one of the prime duties of European Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in their international activity is to participate in the Development Programme,

Calls on all the National Red Cross Societies of Europe,

- a) to participate in the Development Programme as a normal activity and to contribute to it regularly through the League of Red Cross Societies;
- b) to participate to the full in the Development Programme and to inform their members, the authorities, and the public of the importance and aims of the Programme with a view to obtaining the necessary support and assistance;
- c) to offer their contribution to the Development Programme in different forms and activities benefiting from the general experience of the League and the National Societies in the past and in accordance with the needs of the developing countries and their development plans;
- d) to extend active support to the efforts of the League in solving the basic problems of the Development Programme, primarily those involving long-term planning, improved and regular financing and the provision of well-trained delegates and logistic support;
- e) to request their Governments to assist them, so as to enable them most actively to participate in aiding the developing countries, through the granting of appropriate privileges and financial and other assistance;
- f) to co-operate, to co-ordinate their activities in this sphere of development and to exchange information on experience gained, so as to achieve, through the intermediary of the League, the maximum results and possible co-ordination with other agencies, both national and international, which are active in the field of development.
- g) to ensure the implementation of the Development Programme in accordance with the principles of the Red Cross and therefore enable the Programme to contribute in greatest measure to the achievement of peace and co-operation between all peoples of the world.

**STANDING COMMISSION
OF THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS**

The Standing Commission held an ordinary meeting in Cannes on 22 April 1970.

Under the chairmanship of the Countess of Limerick, of the British Red Cross, the Commission was attended by the two representatives of the International Committee of the Red Cross, Mr. Marcel A. Naville, President, and Mr. Jean Pictet, member; by the two representatives of the League of Red Cross Societies, Mr. José Barroso-Chavez, Chairman of the League Board of Governors, and Mr. E. Villanueva-Vadillo, Vice-President of the Spanish Red Cross; and also by the members elected by the International Conference of the Red Cross, namely: General James F. Collins, President of the American Red Cross; Dr. Ahmed Djebli-Elaydouni, President of the Moroccan Red Crescent, Professor Gueorgui Miterev, President of the Alliance of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies of the U.S.S.R., and Sir Geoffrey Newman-Morris, President of the Australian Red Cross Society.

The Standing Commission examined ways and means to improve International Red Cross Conference procedure and organization. It took note of the suggestions put forward by its members and of a study carried out jointly by the Secretariats of the ICRC and of the League.

The Commission also considered certain aspects of a "re-assessment of the role of the International Red Cross in the light of present conditions". It requested the ICRC and the League to undertake a joint study of these problems.

WORLD RED CROSS DAY

In its March number, the *International Review* indicated what World Red Cross Day, on 8 May 1970, with its particularly important theme: *Protect Man; Thwart War*, would be like. The ICRC, in full agreement with the League, had undertaken to prepare the documentary material to be offered to National Societies, which would enable the latter to inform the general public in their countries about the essential principles of the Geneva Conventions and about Red Cross humanitarian action in time of war. The utilization of mass media on the widest possible scale had also been planned, in the fields of broadcasting and television.

These aims were achieved, and National Societies responded widely to the appeal, since 45 of them ordered material from the ICRC. Many others had prepared their own activities, drawing their inspiration from the kit samples, as well as from the poster prepared by the ICRC. Moreover, a programme to be broadcast on 8 May, as well as messages from the presidents of international Red Cross institutions, had been placed at their disposal. The message from Lady Limerick, Chairman of the Standing Commission of the International Red Cross, concluded with the following words:

The Red Cross was founded, just over 100 years ago—in the courage of a conviction that people of good will could unite in a common cause for the good of humanity no matter what differences might divide them—and this belief was embodied in the Geneva Conventions, the greatest effort made yet to safeguard the best interests of the human race, even in the ultimate tragedy of war.

The Red Cross investment in Peace is to develop and extend its universally accepted humanitarian activities, thus promoting the spirit of good will among nations and helping to bring about a better understanding between the peoples of the world.

The message from Mr. Marcel A. Naville, President of the ICRC, was as follows:

The 8th May is World Red Cross Day, and the motto for this celebration is "Protect Man: Thwart War".

That protection becomes each day more firmly integrated and manifest in the International Committee of the Red Cross' activities.

Those activities are based on the Geneva Conventions which form the most complete legal instrument yet devised for man's protection against the evils of war.

Those Conventions, which have been ratified by sovereign Powers, are essential to Red Cross action. But they are of no value if the States which sign them do not apply them. They will give but illusory protection unless the world community insists that governments honour their signatures loyally and generously.

That is why the International Committee of the Red Cross, which was the promoter and is the guardian of those Conventions, addresses itself to each and every one of you individually. The protection of the human being and of human dignity is everyone's duty and concern.

Indeed, man must be protected, for neither the defence of society as we know it, nor the promise of a new society, can ever justify the slaughter of innocents, the torture of detainees, the systematic organization of fear.

War must be thwarted, for although there may be just causes, there are no just wars, and violence, whatever the motive, is always an odious form of oppression.

This twofold theme: "Protect Man: Thwart War", is more than an invitation to think; it is an invitation to act, it is an appeal demanding the response and involvement of each and every one of us.

Mr. J. Barroso, Chairman of the Board of Governors of the League, recalled that the Red Cross is open to men of all races, religions and ideologies, and that it represents thus a permanent invitation to peace, a fitting subject of meditation for all members of the institution. He concluded as follows:

The Red Cross is the real path to peace, to peace within and without; to a peace which does not debase the nature of man, which unites us in adversity and makes us generous in time of plenty.

That is why today, placing confidence in the inherent nobleness of men's hearts, we are appealing, on World Red Cross Day, to all men

IN THE RED CROSS WORLD

of good will to rally to our movement and join its ranks, in the hope that by common effort we achieve our purpose the better to avoid war and protect mankind.

*

Finally, it should be mentioned that radio and television services in many countries had prepared special programmes¹, following the official messages reproduced above, consisting for the most part of documentaries showing Red Cross activities throughout the world. They all had as their object the demonstration that this kind of protection for defenceless people was of itself an obstacle to war, and that it foreshadowed a world at peace to which the Red Cross was contributing by its action.

The *International Review* will give more news on this topic when the information which the ICRC has asked National Societies to provide concerning the programmes which each country has carried out on World Red Cross Day is received.

¹ In the field of broadcasting: French Swiss, German Swiss and Italian Swiss Radio Services, Swiss Short Wave Broadcasting Service, Bavarian and Austrian Radio Services.

Through the European Broadcasting Union, 25 national broadcasting stations, throughout the world, re-broadcast the programme of 8 May.

With regard to television, 11 national television services in various countries ordered the programme of the Swiss French Language Television Service.

TWO RED CROSS MEETINGS

Switzerland.—On 27 and 28 April, Miss Anny Pfirter, head of the Nursing Personnel Service, was invited by the Swiss Red Cross to attend a conference of nursing schools recognized by this National Society, which was held in Bern. Nearly 250 principals and instructors from the nursing schools attended the discussions, which were followed by group working sessions. The evolution of the nursing profession, in the light of modern technology and science, was the main subject of discussions.

Germany.—In Bremen from 11 to 14 May, the German Red Cross Nurses' Associations in the Federal Republic of Germany held a conference. All the principals of these establishments attended the conference accompanied by delegations of nurses.

The local political, medical and Red Cross authorities were also represented there.

Several persons spoke. Miss Pfirter took the floor firstly to convey the ICRC's best wishes. She then drew a parallel between Henry Dunant, founder of the Red Cross, and Florence Nightingale, the 150th anniversary of whose birth was being celebrated that day, as well as the fiftieth anniversary of the first awarding of the medal that bears her name.

The pupils of the Bremen Nursing School read and commented on the principles of the Red Cross.

JOINT COMMISSION
of the
EMPRESS SHÔKEN FUND

Geneva, 11 April 1970

FORTY-NINTH DISTRIBUTION OF INCOME

The Joint Commission entrusted with the distribution of the income of the Empress Shôken Fund met in Geneva on the 24th March 1970. The Japanese Red Cross Society was represented by His Excellency Ambassador Y. Nakayama.

The Commission noted the statement of accounts and the situation of the Fund as at 31st December 1969 and confirmed that the balance available amounted to Sw.Frs. 64,686.53.

In examining the applications the Joint Commission reviewed the experiences of the past few years, and noted that the criteria for allocation it had established were still valid, namely—

- a. to restrict the number of allocations and thereby increasing the allocations so as to permit the beneficiary National Societies to implement the plans envisaged; and
- b. to uphold only those from developing National Societies unable to have their projects financed otherwise and, among such Societies, those which have hitherto benefited least from assistance from the Shôken Fund.

Eighteen requests from 15 National Societies were submitted for allocations from the XLIXth distribution of income and the Joint Commission decided to make the following allocations based on the above-mentioned criteria:

- Burma Red Cross Society*: Sw.Frs. 12,000.—,
to purchase an ambulance for its emergency services
- Nepal Red Cross Society*: Sw.Frs. 15,000.—,
to purchase an ambulance for its emergency services

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Salvadorean Red Cross Society : Sw.Frs. 10,000.—,
to purchase an ambulance for its relief activities.

Tunisian Red Crescent Society : Sw.Frs. 25,000.—,
towards the costs of purchasing a 10-ton truck for its
relief services.

The unused balance of Sw.Frs. 2,686.53 will be added to the income available for the 50th Distribution.

In accordance with article 5b of the Regulations, the beneficiary National Societies are required to report in due course to the Secretariat of the Joint Commission on the use which has been made of the allocations received. The Joint Commission would like this report, accompanied by photographs if possible, to reach it at the latest by the end of the year during which the allocation is used. It furthermore reminds beneficiaries of article 5a of the Regulations which prohibits them from assigning the grant for purposes other than those specified without the previous consent of the Commission.

In accordance with the Regulations, the 1970 income will be distributed in 1971. To facilitate National Societies to make applications in conformity with the Regulations, the Joint Commission has decided to send, as in the past year, model application forms to all National Societies.

The Joint Commission desires to remind National Societies that such requests must indicate the purposes for which the allocation will be used, in order for them to be considered; they must also, as far as possible, be accompanied by a plan of financing. Requests must be submitted to the Secretariat of the Joint Commission before 31st December 1970.

for the Joint Commission

League of Red Cross Societies

H. Beer

N. Abut

K. Seevaratnam

*International Committee
of the Red Cross*

M. Bodmer

(Miss) A. Pfrter

A. Modoux

IN THE RED CROSS WORLD

EMPRESS SHÖKEN FUND

BALANCE SHEET AT 31 DECEMBER 1969

ASSETS	Sw.Frs.	Sw.Frs.	CAPITAL AND LIABILITIES	Sw.Frs.	Sw.Frs.
Public Securities, purchase price: Swiss Securities (Market value Sw.Frs. 53,600.—) . . .	60,000.—		Inalienable capital: Balance brought forward from 1968 . . .	939,329.43	
Other Swiss Franc Securities (Market value Sw. Frs. 641,000.—) . . .	689,974.60		Plus: Additional con- tributions received from the Japanese Government and the Japanese Red Cross in 1969 . .	450,971.82	1,390,301.25
Foreign Securities (Market value Sw. Frs. 261,104.—) . . .	272,451.15	1,022,425.75	Provision for market fluctuations . . .		76,197.95
Time Deposits: Scandinavian Bank in Switzerland, Geneva	153,712.50		Provision for admi- nistrative costs: Balance brought forward from 1968 . . .	622.15	
COGEB, Geneva	100,000.—		Statutory attribution on the 1969 income	3,216.25	
Kreditbank, Brussels	250,000.—	503,712.50		3,838.40	
Cash at bank: Swiss National Bank, Geneva . .	22,520.58		Less: Actual administra- tive costs in 1969	4,055.30	(216.90)
Bank for Commercial Development, . .	11,126.60		Funds at 31 December 1969 according to accounts . . .		64,686.53
MM. Bördier & Co, Geneva . . .	4,201.15	37,848.33	TOTAL CAPITAL		1,530,968.83
Administration fédérale des Contributions, Bern (Tax at source to be reclaimed) . . .		3,686.35	CREDITORS (Allocations to be withdrawn)		37,884.—
League of Red Cross Societies (current account)		1,179.90			
		<u>1,568,852.83</u>			<u>1,568,852.83</u>

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SITUATION OF SECURITIES AT 31 DECEMBER 1969

			NOMINAL VALUE Sw.Fr.	PURCHASE PRICE Sw.Fr.	MARKET VALUE Sw.Fr.		
4 %	Canton de Genève	1963/1979	50,000.—	50,000.—	44,500.—	89%	
4 1/2 %	Crédit Foncier Vaudois	1964/1979	10,000.—	10,000.—	9,100.—	91%	
5 1/2 %	Japan	1968/1983	600,000.—	591,866.—	552,000.—	92%	
5 1/4 %	World Bank, Washington	1968/Nov. 1984	100,000.—	98,108.—	89,000.—	89%	
6 %	Japan	1964/1979	DM 100,000 =	116,850.—	102,934.—	91%	
5 1/2 %	Japan	1980	US \$ 15,000 =	64,800.—	59,616.—	84%	
6 %	Japan Dev. Bank	1978	US \$ 12,000 =	51,840.—	48,989.—	88%	
6 %	Tokyo	1980	US \$ 15,000 =	64,800.—	60,912.—	85%	
				<u>1,058,290.—</u>	<u>1,022,425.—</u>	<u>955,704.—</u>	

NOTES:

- 1) As from 1.1.1969, the investments are accounted for at their purchase price.
- 2) Compared with the purchase price, the market value shows a depreciation of Sw.Fr. 66,721.—

STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR 1969

Funds at 31 December 1968	40,276.96
<i>Less:</i>	
Forty-eighth distribution of allocations to three National Red Cross Societies in accordance with the decision of the Joint Commission, 21 March 1969 (Circular No. 60 of 11 April 1969)	<u>36,700.—</u>
Balance brought forward	3,576.96
Revenue from investments and interests in 1969	64,325.82
<i>Less:</i>	
Allocation of 5% of the 1969 income to the administration of the Fund, in accordance with Article 7 of the Regulations	<u>3,216.25</u>
FUNDS AT 31 DECEMBER 1969	<u>64,686.53</u>

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

XIIIth DISCUSSION OF INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL LAW

The XIIIth Discussion of International Medical Law took place on 8 May 1970 at ICRC headquarters, Geneva.

As in the previous discussions, which have been convened at irregular intervals for a number of years now, these discussions were mainly devoted to the problems regarding the sick and wounded and medical personnel during armed conflicts.

A number of international organizations, both governmental and private, sent representatives.

Among those present were Mr. Vignes (World Health Organization), General Voncken (International Committee of Military Medicine and Pharmacy), Dr. Audeoud-Naville (World Medical Association), Mrs. Bindschedler (International Law Association), Dr. Boeri and Mr. Marquet ("Commission médico-juridique de Monaco"), Dr. Ellenbogen (International Committee for the Neutrality of Medicine) and Dr. Hantchef (League of Red Cross Societies). The ICRC was represented, *inter alia*, by Dr. Meuli, member of the ICRC, and Mr. Pictet, member of the ICRC, Chairman of the Legal Commission, who also presided over the discussions.

During the meeting, the ICRC first informed the participants of the replies it had so far received to the questionnaire it had sent on 18 February 1970 to the Governments of the States Parties to the Geneva Conventions. This survey, which had been suggested by the XIIth Discussion on International Medical Law (1969), was designed to obtain background information for concrete proposals to improve the protection of civilian medical personnel, in conformity with Resolution XVI of the XXIst International Conference of the Red Cross.

The ICRC also submitted to the participants a provisional list of questions concerning their organizations and which were to be taken within the framework of the development of humanitarian law as applicable to international and domestic conflicts.

Several points in the list caused lively discussions—for example, the problems of improving protection of the wounded and the sick, civilian medical personnel, civilian medical transport, certain types of civilian medical establishments and, finally, the respect of the role of the doctor. The meeting also discussed matters of terminology, an important facet of the type of protection sought.

The participants at the XIIIth Discussion showed keen interest in the work of the ICRC in this field and, in particular, in the list they had received. On many points, they gave their support to the ICRC's efforts and put forward a number of extremely useful suggestions.

DEVELOPMENT OF HUMANITARIAN LAW

From 23 March to 10 April 1970, the Commission on the Status of Women held its twenty-third session at the European Office of the United Nations in Geneva. It was attended by representatives of some thirty Member States. In addition, its work was followed by many non-governmental organizations, including the League and the ICRC, and various observers.

Item 6 of its agenda was “ Protection of women and children in emergency or war-time, fighting for peace, national liberation and independence ”. In this connection many delegations hoped for the better application of the rules of humanitarian law and, on the whole, were in favour of the drawing up of fresh international instruments.

One resolution, submitted jointly by the delegations of the Byelorussian SSR, Malaysia and Morocco, and which was adopted by 22 votes to none, with 6 abstentions, called upon States “ to fulfil all the obligations incumbent on them under the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949...” In addition it requested the

MISCELLANEOUS

Secretary-General to pay special attention, in his work on “ the respect of human rights in time of armed conflict ”, to the protection of women and children and to take appropriate measures to make known their plight in armed conflicts and the international regulations which exist for their protection.

THE ICRC AND SWISS NEUTRALITY

Mr. Max Petitpierre, a member of the ICRC and a former president of the Swiss Confederation, recently delivered a lecture on the foreign policy of Switzerland. The extract which we give below will certainly be of interest to our readers, as it refers to the ICRC and to the neutrality of the country where it has its headquarters.

... Finally, there exists a field where Switzerland has special responsibilities towards international society, that of humanitarian law. Switzerland, thanks to Henry Dunant, introduced to the world the concept of the Red Cross and, at the same time, the first principles of humanitarian law that were applied in cases of armed conflicts. This law has developed substantially so as to include gradually all war victims as well as victims of civil wars and even of internal political struggles. While, at first, it had been conceived with the object of protecting combatants, today it seeks to protect civilians. Switzerland has here a specific task to carry out. It was this country which had convened, and had presided, a world-wide diplomatic conference at Geneva in 1949, at which the four Geneva Conventions now in force were hammered out. Further conferences are planned in order to complete and improve what is already in existence. The ICRC has been entrusted with their preparation.

Swiss neutrality is the fundamental condition on which rests the activity of that unique institution, the International Committee of the Red Cross, which, through its field of action extending throughout the whole world, is international, and which is Swiss by its composition, since Swiss citizens alone may become members.

Through the ICRC and its delegates, Swiss presence and activity are felt today on five continents, practically in every area where armed conflicts break out.

No doubt, humanitarian law does not lend itself to spectacular achievements. Its effects are felt only by those peoples or individuals who have become victims and who endure the sufferings caused by war and hatred. Its political utility is therefore limited. But it enables untold sufferings to be alleviated and brings relief to a multitude of persons and families.

The ICRC is not a political authority. It draws its might from moral strength, which it personifies. In certain desperate situations, it is asked to step in even where the Geneva Conventions do not apply. Thus, some years ago, at the time of the Cuba crisis, the United Nations Secretary-General, with the agreement of the Soviet Union and the United Nations, requested the ICRC to carry out a mission which was outside its traditional activities, since it consisted in checking ships heading for Cuba, which was then under blockade. This request, incidentally, did not have any sequel.

When we make an appraisal of our foreign policy, we must reserve to humanitarian law, whose safe-keeping and development have been entrusted to us by the 125 States that have signed the Geneva Conventions of 1949, the place which it deserves to occupy. This is a specific task which is tied to the strict application by Switzerland of its neutrality. . .

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

(AGREED AND AMENDED ON SEPTEMBER 25, 1952)

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

It shall be a constituent part of the International Red Cross.¹

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

ART. 3. — The headquarters of the ICRC shall be in Geneva.

Its emblem shall be a red cross on a white ground. Its motto shall be "Inter arma caritas".

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

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

¹ The International Red Cross comprises the National Red Cross Societies, the International Committee of the Red Cross and the League of Red Cross Societies. The term "National Red Cross Societies" includes the Red Crescent Societies and the Red Lion and Sun Society.

- (c) to undertake the tasks incumbent on it under the Geneva Conventions, to work for the faithful application of these Conventions and to take cognizance of any complaints regarding alleged breaches of the humanitarian Conventions;
- (d) to take action in its capacity as a neutral institution, especially in case of war, civil war or internal strife; to endeavour to ensure at all times that the military and civilian victims of such conflicts and of their direct results receive protection and assistance, and to serve, in humanitarian matters, as an intermediary between the parties;
- (e) to contribute, in view of such conflicts, to the preparation and development of medical personnel and medical equipment, in cooperation with the Red Cross organizations, the medical services of the armed forces, and other competent authorities;
- (f) to work for the continual improvement of humanitarian international law and for the better understanding and diffusion of the Geneva Conventions and to prepare for their possible extension;
- (g) to accept the mandates entrusted to it by the International Conferences of the Red Cross.

The ICRC may also take any humanitarian initiative which comes within its rôle as a specifically neutral and independent institution and consider any questions requiring examination by such an institution.

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



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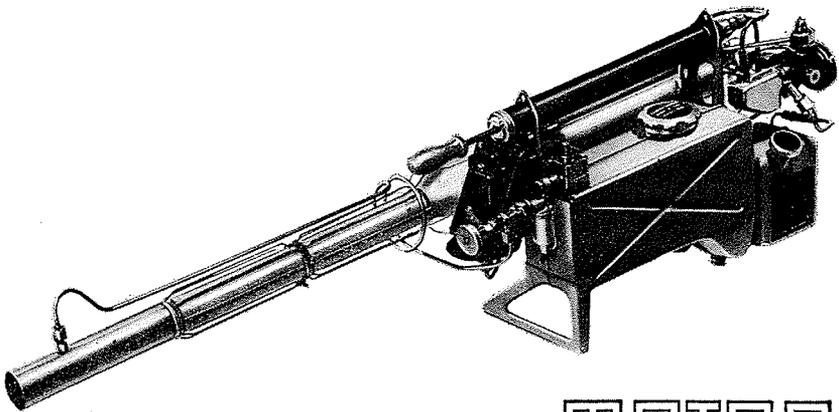
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ADDRESSES OF CENTRAL COMMITTEES

- AFGHANISTAN — Afghan Red Crescent, *Kabul*.
- ALBANIA — Albanian Red Cross, 35, Rruga Barrikadavet, *Tirana*.
- ALGERIA — Central Committee of the Algerian Red Crescent Society, 15 bis, Boulevard Mohamed V, *Algiers*.
- ARGENTINE — Argentine Red Cross, H. Yri-goyen 2068, *Buenos Aires*.
- AUSTRALIA — Australian Red Cross, 122-128 Flinders Street, *Melbourne, C. 1*.
- AUSTRIA — Austrian Red Cross, 3 Gusshaus-strasse, Postfach 39, *Vienna IV*.
- BELGIUM — Belgian Red Cross, 98, Chaussée de Vleurgat, *Brussels 5*.
- BOLIVIA — Bolivian Red Cross, Avenida Simon Bolivar, 1515 (Casilla 741), *La Paz*.
- BOTSWANA — Botswana Red Cross Society, P.O. Box 565, *Gaberones*.
- BRAZIL — Brazilian Red Cross, Praça da Cruz Vermelha 12 cz/86, *Rio de Janeiro*.
- BULGARIA — Bulgarian Red Cross, 1, Boul. S.S. Biruzov, *Sofia*.
- BURMA — Burma Red Cross, 42, Strand Road, Red Cross Building, *Rangoon*.
- BURUNDI — Red Cross Society of Burundi, rue du Marché 3, P.O. Box 1324, *Bujumbura*.
- CAMBODIA — Cambodian Red Cross, 17, Vithei Croix-Rouge, P.O.B. 94, *Phnom-Penh*.
- CAMEROON — Central Committee of the Cameroon Red Cross Society, rue Henry-Dunant, P.O.B. 631, *Yaoundé*.
- CANADA — Canadian Red Cross, 95 Wellesley Street, East, *Toronto 284* (Ontario).
- CEYLON — Ceylon Red Cross, 106 Dharma-pala Mawatte, *Colombo VII*.
- CHILE — Chilean Red Cross, Avenida Santa Maria 0150, Casilla 246 V., *Santiago de Chile*.
- CHINA — Red Cross Society of China, 22 Kanmien Hutung, *Peking, E*.
- COLOMBIA — Colombian Red Cross, Carrera 7a, 34-65 Apartado nacional 1110, *Bogotá D.E.*
- CONGO — Red Cross of the Congo, 41, Avenue Valcke P.O. Box 1712, *Kinshasa*.
- COSTA RICA — Costa Rican Red Cross, Calle 5a, Apartado 1025, *San José*.
- CUBA — Cuban Red Cross, Calle 23 201 esq. N. Vedado, *Havana*.
- CZECHOSLOVAKIA — Czechoslovak Red Cross, Thunovska 18, *Prague I*.
- DAHOMEY — Red Cross Society of Dahomey, P.O. Box 1, *Porto Novo*.
- DENMARK — Danish Red Cross, Ny Vestergade 17, *Copenhagen K*.
- DOMINICAN REPUBLIC — Dominican Red Cross, Calle Juan Enrique Dunant, Ensanche Miraflores, *Santo Domingo*.
- ECUADOR — Ecuadorean Red Cross, Calle de la Cruz Roja y Avenida Colombia 118, *Quito*.
- ETHIOPIA — Ethiopian Red Cross, Red Cross Road No. 1, P.O. Box 195, *Addis Ababa*.
- FINLAND — Finnish Red Cross, Tehtaankatu 1 A, Box 14168, *Helsinki 14*.
- FRANCE — French Red Cross, 17, rue Quentin Bauchart, *Paris (8^e)*.
- GERMANY (Dem. Republic) — German Red Cross in the German Democratic Republic, Kaitzerstrasse 2, *Dresden A. 1*.
- GERMANY (Federal Republic) — German Red Cross in the Federal Republic of Germany, Friedrich-Ebert-Allee 71, 5300 *Bonn 1*, Post-fach (D.B.R.).
- GHANA — Ghana Red Cross, P.O. Box 835, *Accra*.
- GREAT BRITAIN — British Red Cross, 9 Grosvenor Crescent, *London, S.W.1*.
- GREECE — Hellenic Red Cross, rue Lycavittou 1, *Athens 135*.
- GUATEMALA — Guatemalan Red Cross, 3.^o Calle 8-40 zona 1, *Guatemala C.A.*
- GUYANA — Guyana Red Cross, P.O. Box 351, Eve Leary, *Georgetown*.
- HAITI — Haiti Red Cross, Place des Nations Unies, B.P. 1337, *Port-au-Prince*.
- HONDURAS — Honduran Red Cross, Calle Henry Dunant 516, *Tegucigalpa*.
- HUNGARY — Hungarian Red Cross, Arany Janos utca 31, *Budapest V*.
- ICELAND — Icelandic Red Cross, Ólduggøtu 4, *Reykjavik*, Post Box 872.
- INDIA — Indian Red Cross, 1 Red Cross Road, *New Delhi 1*.
- INDONESIA — Indonesian Red Cross, Tanah Abang Barat 66, P.O. Box 2009, *Djakarta*.
- IRAN — Iranian Red Lion and Sun Society, Avenue Ark, *Teheran*.
- IRAQ — Iraqi Red Crescent, Al-Mansour, *Baghdad*.
- IRELAND — Irish Red Cross, 16 Merrion Square, *Dublin 2*.
- ITALY — Italian Red Cross, 12, via Toscana, *Rome*.
- IVORY COAST — Ivory Coast Red Cross Society, B.P. 1244, *Abidjan*.
- JAMAICA — Jamaica Red Cross Society, 76 Arnold Road, *Kingston 5*.
- JAPAN — Japanese Red Cross, 5 Shiba Park, Minato-Ku, *Tokyo*.
- JORDAN — Jordan National Red Crescent Society, P.O. Box 10 001, *Amman*.
- KENYA — Kenya Red Cross Society, St Johns Gate, P.O. Box 712, *Nairobi*.
- KOREA (Democratic People's Republic) — Red Cross Society of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, *Pyeongyang*.
- KOREA (Republic) — The Republic of Korea National Red Cross, 32-3 Ka Nam San-Donk, *Seoul*.
- KUWAIT — Kuwait Red Crescent Society, P.O. Box 1359, *Kuwait*.
- LAOS — Lao Red Cross, P.B. 650, *Vientiane*.
- LEBANON — Lebanese Red Cross, rue Général Spears, *Beirut*.

ADDRESSES OF CENTRAL COMMITTEES

- LIBERIA** — Liberian National Red Cross, National Headquarters, Corner of Tubman boulevard and 9th Street Sinkor, P.O. Box 226, *Monrovia*.
- LIBYAN ARAB REPUBLIC** — Libyan Red Crescent, Berka Omar Mukhtar Street, P.O. Box 541, *Benghazi*.
- LIECHTENSTEIN** — Liechtenstein Red Cross, FL-9490 *Vaduz*.
- LUXEMBOURG** — Luxembourg Red Cross, Parc de la Ville, C.P. 234, *Luxembourg*.
- MADAGASCAR** — Red Cross Society of Madagascar, rue Clemenceau, P.O. Box 1168, *Tananarive*.
- MALAYSIA** — Malaysian Red Cross Society, 519 Jalan Belfield, *Kuala Lumpur*.
- MALI** — Mali Red Cross, B.P. 280, route de Koulikora, *Bamako*.
- MEXICO** — Mexican Red Cross, Avenida Ejército Nacional, n° 1032, *Mexico* 10, D.F.
- MONACO** — Red Cross of Monaco, 27 Boul. de Suisse, *Monte-Carlo*.
- MONGOLIA** — Red Cross Society of the Mongolian People's Republic, Central Post Office, Post Box 537, *Ulan Bator*.
- MOROCCO** — Moroccan Red Crescent, rue Benzakour, B.P. 189, *Rabat*.
- NEPAL** — Nepal Red Cross Society, Tripureshwar, P.B. 217, *Kathmandu*.
- NETHERLANDS** — Netherlands Red Cross, 27 Prinsesegracht, *The Hague*.
- NEW ZEALAND** — New Zealand Red Cross, 61 Dixon Street, P.O.B. 6073, *Wellington C.2*.
- NICARAGUA** — Nicaraguan Red Cross, 12 Avenida Noroeste, 305, *Managua*, D.N.
- NIGER** — Red Cross Society of Niger, B.P. 386, *Niamey*.
- NIGERIA** — Nigerian Red Cross Society, Eko Akete Close, off. St. Gregory Rd., Onikan, P.O. Box 764, *Lagos*.
- NORWAY** — Norwegian Red Cross, Parkveien 33b, *Oslo*.
- PAKISTAN** — Pakistan Red Cross, Frere Street, *Karachi* 4.
- PANAMA** — Panamanian Red Cross, Apartado 668, *Panama*.
- PARAGUAY** — Paraguayan Red Cross, calle André Barbero y Artigas 33, *Asunción*.
- PERU** — Peruvian Red Cross, Jiron Chancay 881, *Lima*.
- PHILIPPINES** — Philippine National Red Cross, 860 United Nations Avenue, P.O.B. 280, *Manila* D-406.
- POLAND** — Polish Red Cross, Mokotowska 14, *Warsaw*.
- PORTUGAL** — Portuguese Red Cross, General Secretaryship, Jardim 9 de Abril, 1 a 5, *Lisbon* 3.
- RUMANIA** — Red Cross of the Socialist Republic of Rumania, Strada Biserica Amzei 29, *Bucarest*.
- SALVADOR** — Salvador Red Cross, 3a Avenida Norte y 3a Calle Poniente 21, *San Salvador*.
- SAN MARINO** — San Marino Red Cross, Palais gubernamental, *San Marino*.
- SAUDI ARABIA** — Saudi Arabian Red Crescent *Riyadh*.
- SENEGAL** — Senegalese Red Cross Society, Bld. Franklin-Roosevelt, P.O.B. 299, *Dakar*.
- SIERRA LEONE** — Sierra Leone Red Cross Society, 6 Liverpool Street, P.O.B. 427, *Freetown*.
- SOMALI REPUBLIC** — Somali Red Crescent Society, P.O. Box. 937, *Mogadiscio*.
- SOUTH AFRICA** — South African Red Cross, Cor. Kruis & Market Streets, P.O.B. 8726, *Johannesburg*.
- SPAIN** — Spanish Red Cross, Eduardo Dato 16, *Madrid*, 10.
- SUDAN** — Sudanese Red Crescent, P.O. Box 235, *Khartoum*.
- SWEDEN** — Swedish Red Cross, Artillerigatan 6, 10440, *Stockholm* 14.
- SWITZERLAND** — Swiss Red Cross, Taubenstrasse, 8, B.P. 2699, 3001 *Berne*.
- SYRIA** — Syrian Red Crescent, 13, rue Mahdi Ben Baraka, *Damascus*.
- TANZANIA** — Tanzania Red Cross Society, Upanga Road, P.O.B. 1133, *Dar es Salaam*.
- THAILAND** — Thai Red Cross Society, King Chulalongkorn Memorial Hospital, *Bangkok*.
- TOGO** — Togolese Red Cross Society, Avenue des Alliés 19, P.O. Box 655, *Lomé*.
- TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO** — Trinidad and Tobago Red Cross Society, 48 Pembroke Street, P.O. Box 357, *Port of Spain*.
- TUNISIA** — Tunisian Red Crescent, 19, rue d'Angleterre, *Tunis*.
- TURKEY** — Turkish Red Crescent, Yenisehir, *Ankara*.
- UGANDA** — Uganda Red Cross, 57 Roseberry Street, P.O. Box 494, *Kampala*.
- UNITED ARAB REPUBLIC** — Red Crescent Society of the United Arab Republic, 34, rue Ramses, *Cairo*.
- UPPER VOLTA** — Upper Volta Red Cross, P.O.B. 340, *Ouagadougou*.
- URUGUAY** — Uruguayan Red Cross, Avenida 8 de Octubre, 2990, *Montevideo*.
- U.S.A.** — American National Red Cross, 17th and D Streets, N.W., *Washington* 6 D.C.
- U.S.S.R.** — Alliance of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, Tcheremushki, J. Tcheremushkinskii proezd 5, *Moscow* W-36.
- VENEZUELA** — Venezuelan Red Cross, Avenida Andrés Bello No. 4, Apart. 3185, *Caracas*.
- VIET NAM (Democratic Republic)** — Red Cross of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, 68, rue Bà-Trièz, *Hanoi*.
- VIET NAM (Republic)** — Red Cross of the Republic of Viet Nam, 201, duong Hông-Thập-Tu, No. 201, *Saigon*.
- YUGOSLAVIA** — Yugoslav Red Cross, Simina ulica broj 19, *Belgrade*.
- ZAMBIA** — Zambia Red Cross, P.O. Box R. W. 1, Ridgeway, *Lusaka*.