



REVUE INTERNATIONALE DE LA CROIX-ROUGE

SUPPLEMENT

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THE DISSEMINATION OF THE GENEVA CONVENTIONS IN THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY ¹

On March 3, 1955, the four Geneva Conventions of August 12, 1949 came into force in the German Federal Republic. In the same manner as other member States, the Federal Republic undertook, in signing each Convention, to disseminate the text as widely as possible in time of peace and in time of war; in particular, to include the study thereof in the programmes of military and, if possible, civil instruction, to enable the principles to become known to all the military forces and the entire population.

The purpose of the present study is to give a general idea of what the Federal Republic has done so far and continues to do in order to fulfil this obligation. Since the actual text of the Conventions makes a distinction between *programmes of military instruction* and *programmes of civil instruction*, we have kept to this distinction.

With regard to the "Bundeswehr", paragraph 33 of the military law (Soldatengesetz) stipulates that every soldier should receive instruction in international law and be informed of his duties, and rights, in international law. Moreover, according to paragraph 11 of this law officers are bound only to give orders which are in conformity with international law. Under this law the Federal Republic has thus asserted—in internal

¹ Report submitted to the *Congrès international de la neutralité en temps de guerre*, Paris, April 1959.

legislation—its will to ensure the observance of international law by its soldiers and, in particular, to avoid breaches of the law due to lack of knowledge or insufficient instruction in the subject. This applies especially to the Geneva Conventions of August 12, 1949.

How has this dual obligation of international law and internal legislation been fulfilled up to the present?

Even before the coming into force in the Federal Republic of the Geneva Conventions of August 12, 1949, leaflets were distributed to officers and men engaged in the formation of the Bundeswehr informing them of the texts of the Geneva Conventions. As soon as the army had been organised, the instruction of troops in the international laws of war, and the Geneva Conventions in particular, was started. Officers were given a series of lectures on the rights of prisoners of war, the treatment of wounded, sick and shipwrecked, the legal status of medical personnel and the protection of civilians. Printed copies of the lectures were distributed to all who attended the courses. At the same time the instruction of the first Bundeswehr units was started.

In less than three years these initial efforts led to an organisation guaranteeing the systematic training of each member of the Bundeswehr. In the Bundeswehr schools, the Military Academy (Führungsakademie), Officers Training College (Schule für Innere Führung) and training centres for officers and men, teachers of law give instruction (mainly in international law) in which the Geneva Conventions play an important part. Thus, for instance, a cadet of the land forces, before being promoted to sub-lieutenant does fifteen hours' study of the Geneva Conventions. The written examination papers for officers include an essay of which the subject is drawn from the international law of war. In most cases subjects relating to the Geneva Conventions are chosen so that knowledge of the latter is essential in taking up a military career. The same applies to cadets of the Medical Service and other branches of military service.

In addition, legal advisers of large units (army corps, divisions, the Air, Naval and Defence Commands) instruct the officers of their units. The troops receive instruction from an

officer trained by legal advisers and teachers of law who passes on his knowledge of the subject in terms which the private soldier can understand. Here is another example of the field covered ; during the first six months of his military service the soldier attends courses (4 hours) on a general study of the Geneva Conventions ; members of Army Medical Service units are given a supplementary course (5 hours) on the Convention for the Amelioration of the Condition of the Wounded and Sick in Armed Forces in the Field. The questions studied during these courses are often taken up again during the second half-year period.

For these various training courses, the International Law Department of the Federal Ministry of Defence has issued a number of text-books for the instruction of troops which are made available to teachers of law, legal advisers and officers. A first booklet entitled " The International Law of War "—Directions for General Instruction " contains the most important clauses of international law relating to the basic instruction of troops, and lays particular emphasis on the Geneva Conventions.

This publication is supplemented by a booklet entitled " First Course of Basic General Instruction on the International Law of War ", which enables the unit commander to prepare his first lectures on the international law of war and in which the Geneva Conventions are prominent. Twenty thousand copies of both these documents have been circulated.

For the special use of officers engaged in the instruction of troops, the International Law Section of the Legal Department of the Federal Ministry of Defence has published an illustrated booklet " The Geneva Conventions in pictures and words " of which 50,000 copies have been distributed among the troops. The most important provisions and prohibitions of the Geneva Conventions are set forth in 52 illustrations accompanied by short explanatory texts. The main idea is expressed by the phrase " Be humane, even in war ". This illustrated booklet—from which lantern-slides have also been produced for projections during lectures—met with almost unexpected success, far beyond the Bundeswehr field, a few weeks after publication.

The President of the ICRC expressed the opinion that this booklet was an exemplary means of disseminating knowledge of the Geneva Conventions, to which the Governments pledged themselves when they signed these humanitarian texts. Soldiers have already expressed the wish that this illustrated booklet should be issued to every man and remain in his possession when he leaves the army. A regulation is now being considered whereby the soldier's field-kit would in future include a pocket edition of the illustrated booklet or a summary of the most important provisions of the Conventions.

Further, an instructional film on the Geneva Conventions is now being prepared in conjunction with the German Red Cross.

To serve as text-books for teachers of law, legal advisers or officers who wish to make a closer study of the matter, a series of hand-books in 12 volumes is being prepared entitled "International Law of War—Guide for Instruction" of which the purpose is to give knowledge of the international law of war by means of practical examples. Four volumes are devoted to the Geneva Conventions¹. About 20,000 copies of these text-books will shortly be published; they will also contain a detailed explanation of the Geneva Conventions.

The texts of all agreements on international law of war and neutrality, including the four Geneva Conventions, will be published and distributed to officers (down to commanders of sections). This will fulfil, in regard to the Bundeswehr, another provision of the Geneva Conventions which stipulates that military authorities should possess the texts of the Conventions relating to prisoners of war (Art. 127) and civilians (Art. 144).

Finally a few more remarks on the methods for the instruction: in the Bundeswehr training schools, besides lectures, the questions of the Geneva Conventions are mainly discussed in seminars and study-groups and are studied by means of educational games. There are two methods, which give good results; plays concerning international law with students playing the parts, for instance, of garrison commander, army medical officer, civilian doctor, representatives of national Red Cross organisa-

¹ These four volumes were published in April 1960.

tions, civil servants, etc., and acting scenes in dumb show on questions connected with the Fourth Convention which would arise during military occupation. For the study of military manoeuvres by maps, themes can be drawn from the Geneva Conventions, e.g. how to remove the wounded to a place of safety, how to deal with prisoners and when to employ the red cross emblem. These exercises prove to those taking part in them that they will constantly be faced during a war with problems of international law not only within the field of the Geneva Conventions. By this means, and more efficiently than by lectures or study-groups, they will learn to appreciate the practical side of the Geneva Conventions.

The same possibilities exist in training courses for privates, where scenes can be played in dumb show, for instance, representing the capture of enemy troops, which would enable the soldier to show that he knows what could and should be taken from the prisoner and what should be left to him. Debates could be held on questions such as whether a munition truck, unloaded and on a point of going away empty, could transport wounded men and display the protective emblem.

If soldiers of all ranks thus acquire the essential knowledge of the Geneva Conventions, this should not be the sole aim of instruction on the subject. They should still be taught a sense of humanity and be made to understand that even in the midst of the combat they should never fail to look upon their adversaries—especially a wounded and defenceless man, a prisoner of war and a civilian in occupied territory—as men who, regardless of their nationality, race, religion and political opinions, feel and suffer like themselves and are, therefore, in the true sense of the word, their “fellow men”. They will then perceive that the Geneva Conventions do not require any extraordinary effort on their part but merely that they should always remain humane in the daily stress of war.

It is less easy, than for the individual soldier, to reach all classes of the civilian population. For the soldier *his duties* take the first place followed by the knowledge of *his rights*, for instance those to which he is entitled as a prisoner of war, whereas there are relatively few civilians who might in some

way be responsible for protected persons. These civilians, such as the administrative authorities and the police force, are in possession of the texts of the Conventions published in the "Federal Legal Gazette" issued to all public institutions. The administrative services concerned, even remotely, with civil defence, possess the texts of the four Geneva Conventions in the hand-book of military law or the separate reprints published by Hinz, Schlögel and Groh. In this connection the illustrated booklet distributed to book-sellers by Gerhard Stalling, Oldenburg, has met with great success and will contribute towards a wider dissemination of the Geneva Conventions. The numerous jurists appointed to the civil authorities have acquired knowledge, through their studies, of the Geneva Conventions which necessarily take an important place in university courses on international law.

It is not possible to give even some approximative estimation of the numerous means available for ensuring the dissemination of the Geneva Conventions among the civilian population, for which emphasis must be placed on the legal status of the civilian in the event of an armed conflict. Personal experience often leads civilians to an active interest in this matter and their private initiative in this field finds several and varied means of achieving their purpose in adult education. In many schools the teaching of the principles of the Geneva Conventions is now included in programmes for senior classes; in this connection the illustrated booklet has met with great success and is in general use.

There is no doubt that the greatest effort for the instruction of the civilian population of the Federal Republic is made by the German Red Cross, with the support of the public authorities. Immediately after the signature of the Conventions in 1949, i.e. some time before the accession of the Federal Republic, measures were adopted for spreading knowledge of the Conventions among the population. Extensive use was made of a booklet entitled "The Geneva Conventions of 1949 and the Red Cross", published in 1950 by the Bavarian Branch and adopted by the

Red Cross of the German Federal Republic, of which 226,000 copies were issued.

It was necessary, however, to instruct members of the National Society at the same time as the population and, above all, to find qualified instructors for the purpose. The services were enlisted in various cantonal and local associations of judges, lawyers and officials who had prepared themselves for this work by attending the training courses of the German Red Cross Federal School and those of the regional associations. Over one thousand jurists, as well as doctors and teachers, took part in these courses of which thirty series were given. The Red Cross aimed to have at least one qualified instructor in each cantonal section. This aim was achieved some time ago and the instructors impart their knowledge to many members of the German Red Cross and, by means of public lectures, to the population.

Two competitions organised by the German Red Cross and the Bavarian Section have also helped in disseminating the Geneva Conventions.

Since the end of 1956 the German Junior Red Cross has taken great interest in the dissemination of the Conventions among teachers and young people. For this purpose, it has organised up to the present three fairly important meetings of which two—the International Teachers' Congress, held in the Island of Mainau, Easter 1957 and Easter 1958—were both attended by some fifty delegates (German teachers and also instructors and representatives of the Austrian, Swiss, American, Netherlands and British Red Cross Societies) as well as a congress of teachers and jurists held in October 1957 at the Mehlem Federal School. Representatives of the ICRC and the League also took part in the International Teachers' Congress of 1957¹.

The XIXth International Conference of the Red Cross, to which the proposals of the two first congresses had been submitted, approved the proposals and recommended them to all Red Cross Societies and their Junior sections.

Following the proposals put forward by the Teachers' Congress (conducted on a federal level) a number of regional

¹ See *Revue internationale*, July 1957.

associations organised meetings for the purpose of making teachers and scholars more familiar with the concepts and principles of the Geneva Conventions. Similar meetings to be held in future school years are being planned by the regional associations of the German Red Cross.

The German Red Cross has prepared and published other documents besides the booklet mentioned above. A German translation of the Conventions was first published in 1952 entitled "The Geneva Conventions for the Protection of War Victims" with a preface by Dr. Schlögel; 10,000 copies have been issued so far. As many copies were issued in 1952 of a pamphlet by Dr. Becher of the Bavarian Section entitled "The Fourth Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons".

Articles on the Geneva Conventions have been published in the monthly magazine *Das Rote Kreuz* edited in Bonn, and in various special periodicals. On the occasion of the centenary of the Battle of Solferino a book was published which gives detailed information on the Geneva Conventions¹.

The German Red Cross also uses as instructional material the illustrated booklet and lantern-slides issued by the Ministry of Defence. A programme has been arranged for use in the Red Cross sections, which covers the essential points of the four Geneva Conventions in four courses of two hours each. In addition to lectures and the showing of the film "Henri Dunant" the Red Cross of the German Federal Republic has recourse to educational games to arouse public interest and knowledge in connection with these questions.

A State under a democratic regime cannot employ forcible measures to make the Geneva Conventions known to the population as a whole. It can only create *possibilities* within the framework of the instruction of adults and it must be left to everyone concerned to draw benefit from these efforts. It can make sure also that school children, the future generation, do not grow up without knowledge of the existence, the aim and

¹ *Solferino ein Anfang, ein Zeichen, ein Ruf an alle*, by Mr. Heudtlass, in co-operation with Dr. A. Schlögel and Mr. G. Fehr, see *Revue internationale*, January 1959.

the texts of the Geneva Conventions. Thus other members of the family—already informed of the subject by the instruction given to soldiers—acquire indirect but not, of course, detailed knowledge of the Geneva Conventions, are made aware of their existence and encouraged to take greater interest in the subject.

It should be explained to everybody that the Geneva Conventions concern him; that under their protection and through their medium nobody would be deprived of his rights or be defenceless, should humanity again have to suffer the scourge of war. The idea must be spread, in fact, throughout the world, that whatever is placed under the protection of the Red Cross is inviolable.

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INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

SUNDRY ACTIVITIES

News Items

Repatriation of Koreans resident in Japan. — *Since the repatriation operations commenced¹ until April, 1960, 15 groups of Korean nationals (about 15,000 persons) left Japan for the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. These departures—attended by members of the ICRC mission headed by Mr. A. Durand—are being continued.*

In March two members of this delegation, Mr. W. Menzel and Mr. A. Heyer, whose mission had come to an end, returned to Switzerland. They have been replaced by Mr. Ch. Ammann of the Relief Section and Mr. P. Vibert, Head of the Mail and Archives Section, who left Geneva for Tokyo on February 16 and March 1 respectively. The staff of the ICRC mission received another member, Mr. R. J. Wilhelm, of the Legal Department, who left Geneva on March 18, and Mr. F. Bieri, delegate of the ICRC in Japan, who returned to his post in Tokyo at the end of March.

Despatching of relief supplies to various countries. — *In April the International Committee sent supplies of stationery for distribution to Algerian refugees. The value of this gift was about 2,000 Swiss francs.*

¹ See *English Supplement to the Revue Internationale de la Croix-Rouge*, April 1960.

Germany. — *Gifts of clothing to the ICRC from donors resident in Switzerland were sent during February to the reception and transit centre at Piding (Bavaria).*

Greece. — *During his visit to the camp for exiles at Aghios Efstratios on April 13, Dr. J. de Rougemont, delegate of the ICRC, handed to the camp dispensary, under the direction of the Greek Red Cross, patent medicines (in particular for the treatment of tuberculosis) valued at 10,000 Swiss francs.*

Hungary and Poland. — *The ICRC continues to send medicaments to these two countries. As we have already stated¹, requests for medicaments from sick persons or their doctors are sent through the Hungarian Red Cross or the Polish Red Cross. The funds for this relief action are made available by the ICRC and National Red Cross Societies.*

Laos. — *The relief action undertaken by the International Committee, through its delegate, Mr. A. Leuenberger, in behalf of the victims of events in Laos, came to a close at the end of April.*

Morocco. — *After the earthquake in Agadir the International Committee made a donation of 5,000 Swiss francs to the Moroccan Red Crescent in aid of the disaster victims.*

Mission of Mr. R. J. Wilhelm to Asia. — *Having been appointed to the special mission of the ICRC for attending the repatriation of Korean nationals, Mr. R. J. Wilhelm, member of the Legal Department, left Geneva on March 18 for a few months' stay in Japan.*

On his way he stopped at New Delhi where he discussed various common problems with the directorate of the Indian Red Cross and representatives of the Indian Government, and in particular the development of humanitarian law, the dissemination of the Geneva Conventions and the protection of the civilian population from the dangers of war.

During his stop at Bangkok, Mr. Wilhelm discussed these problems with the directorate of the Thai Red Cross. He also took

¹ See *English Supplements to the Revue internationale, February and November, 1959.*

advantage of his stay in Bangkok to be present, on March 30, at the departure of 600 Vietnamese refugees in Thailand who were proceeding to the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam. The repatriation of these refugees is being continued at the rate of two groups each month.

Nursing courses. — *Miss A. Pfirter, Head of the Medical Personnel Section of the ICRC, and Miss Y. Hentsch, Director of the Nursing Bureau of the League of Red Cross Societies, gave lectures on February 29 and March 1, at the Swiss Red Cross Nursing School in Zurich, on the history, principles and activities of the International Red Cross, the Geneva Conventions and the role of the Red Cross nurse.*

World Refugee Year. — *The International Committee for World Refugee Year held its sixth plenary session on March 29 in Geneva. The ICRC was represented by Mr. H. Coursier, member of the Legal Department.*

The meeting took note of the reports submitted by member organisations on the results achieved in connection with World Refugee Year. In his speech H. E. Mr. S. A. Baig, Ambassador of Pakistan in Berne, referred to the situation of some ten million refugees in Pakistan and stressed the difficult problem of finding them accommodation.

Mission to Hungary. — *Mr. E. Fischer, delegate of the ICRC, and Miss A. Pfirter, Head of the Medical Personnel Section and War Disablement Section, went to Budapest early in April for the purpose of discussing various problems with the Hungarian Red Cross concerning the reuniting of dispersed Hungarian families, the equipment of a new artificial-limb workshop and the progress of other relief actions.*

Second Congress of Organisers and Technicians of International Congresses. — *This Congress was held in Lausanne from March 15 to 18, under the auspices of the Union of International Associations. The ICRC was represented by Mr. C. Pilloud, Assistant Director.*

Commentary on the Third Geneva Convention of 1949. — *An English translation of the Commentary on the Third Geneva Convention relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War, published under the general editorship of Mr. J. Pictet, Director for General Affairs, in 1958, was recently published by the ICRC.*

A satisfactory solution of a problem. — *The difficult problem of Japanese fishermen held in South Korea and Korean illegal immigrants interned in Japan which the International Committee had taken up on several occasions, was settled by an agreement concluded on March 18 between the Governments of the Republic of Korea and Japan. In accordance with this agreement, 167 Japanese fishermen, held in Pusan (Republic of Korea), were repatriated on March 31, and 344 Korean internees left Omura Camp (Japan) for the Republic of Korea on March 28. About one thousand Korean illegal immigrants will thus be returning to their country.*

Gift of a cine-camera to the ICRC. — *The firm Paillard S.A. at Sainte-Croix (Switzerland) recently presented the ICRC with a 16 mm. cine-camera and stand. It is an up-to-date model with the latest improvements including a reflex viewer and a variable shooter. It has three lenses and can be used with facility by non-professional photographers.*

This apparatus will enable the ICRC to collect a greater number of, and better, films of its activities. It can be lent to delegates engaged in missions in various parts of the world and enable them to record events of special interest or of an uncommon description.

Visits to internment centres in France. — *At the end of February and early in March and April, Mr. P. Gaillard and Mr. P. Delarue, delegates of the ICRC, made further visits to assigned residence centres in Northern and Southern France. They visited, and inspected living conditions, in the centres at Neuveville-sur-Ain, St. Maurice l'Ardoise, Larzac and Vadenay.*

Return of a delegate to Geneva. — *On April 8, Mr. David de Traz, General-Delegate of the ICRC for the Near East, returned to Geneva on account of ill-health.*

Congress of the International Committee of Military Medicine and Pharmacy. — *The ICRC was invited to attend the 16th Congress of the International Committee of Military Medicine and Pharmacy held in Teheran from April 25 to May 1; it was represented by Mr. Frederic Siordet, Vice-President, who took part as an observer.*

On his return journey, Mr. Siordet stopped at Cairo where he met some members of the Government of the United Arab Republic. He also surveyed the work of the Cairo Delegation, headed by Mr. E. Muller.

Mission to West Germany and Austria. — *During his visit to West Germany, the second fortnight in February, Mr. H. Beckh, delegate of the ICRC, went to Karlsruhe where he had further talks with Mr. Güde, Attorney General of the Federal Republic, on the subject of political detainees.*

Mr. Beckh also visited eleven prisons where he spoke without witnesses with 37 political detainees under detention or serving sentences.

When passing through Bavaria, Mr. Beckh had an interview with Mr. Hailer, Head of the Tracing Service of the German Red Cross in Munich.

He went to Vienna to examine various matters in connection with the untimely death of Mr. G. Joubert, delegate of the ICRC in Austria.

Mr. Beckh also had several talks with Mr. H. Sevcik, Secretary-General of the Austrian Red Cross.

Publications in Arabic. — *The ICRC recently published a translation in Arabic of a handbook entitled "Training Course for Red Cross Nursing Auxiliaries and Voluntary Aids", first published in December 1955.*

This handbook (about 200 pages) by Miss Hélène Nussbaum, former Head of the Medical Personnel Section of the ICRC, outlines a training programme for nursing auxiliaries, preceded by an introduction which lays stress on the spiritual aspect of the duties incumbent upon all those who wish to show their goodwill in tending the wounded and sick on behalf of their National Societies.

The ICRC has also published a translation in Arabic of the booklet "The ICRC and the Algerian Conflict".

World Refugee Year—Third Meeting of the Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme. — *This meeting took place in Geneva from April 7 to 13. The ICRC was represented by Mr. F. de Reynold, Head of the Liaison Service, as an observer.*

During this meeting the Executive Committee discussed, in particular, the situation of Algerian, Chinese and Hungarian refugees, other socially handicapped refugees and the question of legal assistance.

Visits to the ICRC headquarters. — *The visitors to the ICRC from the end of February until early April included H. E. Mr. Vu-Van-Mau, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Viet Nam, accompanied by Mr. Buu-Kinh, Counsellor to the Embassy in Paris and Mr. Ton That-Thien, Geneva correspondent of the "Viet Nam Press" Telegraphic Agency, Mr. Norman Lucker, Senior Officer (External Relations) in the European Office of the United Nations, accompanied by his assistant, Miss van Muyden, and Mr. Claude de Kémoularia, Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General for World Refugee Year.*

On March 31, the International Committee had the pleasure of receiving Mr. John A. MacAulay, the new Chairman of the Board of Governors of the League of Red Cross Societies, accompanied by his wife and Mr. Henry W. Dunning, Secretary-General of the League. The President and members of the staff showed Mr. MacAulay round the ICRC headquarters and the Central Tracing Agency.

Visits were also received from the Duc de Hernani, member of the Managing Body of the Spanish Red Cross, the Rev. Father Gordon V. Daly, President of the Geraldine Branch of the New Zealand Red Cross, and a member of the Central Committee and Miss Joan Thompson, Deputy International Relations and Relief Adviser of the British Red Cross.

Various groups visited the ICRC sections including staff members from the Stuttgart branch of the American Red Cross Centres in Europe, student nurses from "La Source" (the Swiss Red Cross Nursing School in Lausanne), sister-tutors of the French Red Cross invited to Geneva by the League to attend a seminar, pupils from the Berne Secondary School, winners of a competition organised

by the Swiss Red Cross, members of the Swiss Journalists' Union, students from Turin and a party of American Junior Reporters (young news-boys winners of a competition on reporting).

Eleventh International Red Cross Broadcast. — *As in previous years, World Red Cross Day was celebrated on May 8, the anniversary of the birth of Henry Dunant, by an international broadcast organised for the eleventh time in succession by Radio-Genève.*

It will be recalled that for the broadcast on May 8, 1959, the year which marked the centenary of the Battle of Solferino, the Italian Radio-Television Service presented an adaptation of a play relating to Henry Dunant. This year France provided the central theme of this international programme; the French Radio-Television Service presented the " Cantate de la Croix de Charité ", a work by the composer Darius Milhaud on a poem by Loys Masson.

This programme, produced as customary under the auspices of the International Committee of the Red Cross, the League of Red Cross Societies, the European Broadcasting Union and the International Broadcasting Corporation, was broadcast by 63 countries in the five continents. The broadcast of the cantata was preceded by a link-up of 19 radio stations in Europe, Africa, Asia and America.

So far there have never been so many participants in this international broadcast, which is, in fact, a favourable auspice for the Centenary of the Red Cross and it is to be hoped that the broadcast which will be produced by Radio-Genève in 1963 for the commemoration of this Centenary will group all the countries within the Red Cross (Red Crescent, Red Lion and Sun) movement.

This year, the organisers of the television programme on May 8 adopted a new idea; the Permanent Secretariat of the international broadcast had invited the National Red Cross Societies of countries members of Eurovision to send short documentary films illustrating some typical and recent events. The reels sent by the National Societies were made into a film which brought out the variety of the tasks incumbent upon the Red Cross.

TENTH DISTRIBUTION OF THE REVENUE
OF THE AUGUSTA FUND

GENEVA, April 4, 1960.

429th Circular

*To the Central Committees of National Red Cross
(Red Crescent, Red Lion and Sun) Societies*

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

Article 6 of the Regulations of the Augusta Fund stipulates that the interest on this Fund " shall be distributed every four years at each International Conference ".

The last and ninth distribution took place in 1956, the year in which the XIXth International Conference of the Red Cross was to have been held. However, as the Conference had been postponed until the following year, the International Committee considered that it could not postpone also the distribution of the income from this Fund, in order that the National Societies should not be kept waiting for grants which they had every reason to believe would be available to them at the time originally announced. The National Societies were informed of this decision by the Circular No. 413 of the International Committee.

Four years have passed since the ninth distribution and the International Committee is now faced with a similar problem: to proceed with the tenth distribution in 1960, that is to say this year, in accordance with the first part of Article 6 referred to above or, as set forth in the second part, to postpone the distribution until 1963 when the XXth International Conference of the Red Cross will take place.

The International Committee has given preference to the first solution. It considered that an interval of seven years

between distributions would be too long and that there would be no point, in view of the urgent tasks with which National Red Cross Societies have to deal, in leaving the income from the Fund to accumulate over that period. In addition and generally speaking, the Committee considers that it is unadvisable to link the distribution of income with meetings of the International Conferences of the Red Cross. Since experience has shown that these conferences might be held at irregular intervals, the amount of the income available for each distribution would vary in consequence and this would be liable to cause prejudice to the Societies concerned. The International Committee has in fact the intention of submitting a proposal for an amendment of Article 6 of the Regulations to the XXth International Conference of the Red Cross.

The International Committee has the honour to inform the National Societies that it will proceed with the tenth distribution of income from the Augusta Fund in *October 1960*. The date of *August 31* has been fixed as the time-limit for applications for grants to be taken into consideration.

We wish to recall that the interest from the Fund is to be devoted :

- a) either to missions which the Central Committees judge expedient to organise in the general interest of Red Cross work ;
- b) or to women's associations, and especially those concerned with setting up nursing schools ;
- c) or to any other object of practical utility.

We should be obliged if National Societies wishing to submit requests for grants would give all relevant particulars of the use to be made of funds thus allocated, to enable the International Committee to take decisions with full knowledge of the facts.

Yours sincerely,

FOR THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

Léopold BOISSIER

President
