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# **international review of the red cross**



**INTER ARMA CARITAS**

**GENEVA  
INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS  
FOUNDED IN 1863**

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*The International Committee of the Red Cross assumes responsibility only for material over its own signature.*

# The International Committee of the Red Cross

par André Durand

*In this issue International Review of the Red Cross commences the publication of a recent work, entitled "The International Committee of the Red Cross", by André Durand, former ICRC delegate-general and author of a history of the ICRC.*

*The original version, in French, was first published by the Centre de Recherches européennes, attached to Lausanne University, under the direction of Professor Henri Rieben.*

*The full version of the book will be printed in the International Review and we extend our warmest thanks to the author and the director of the Centre de Recherches européennes for having kindly given permission to reproduce the book in the Review.*

*In the English and Spanish editions of International Review the text has been translated by the staff of the ICRC translation service.*

## 1

### “INTER ARMA CARITAS”

Philanthropy has not a good reputation. Born of individual initiative and exempt from obligations, it is at times accompanied by paternalism and self-satisfaction. The donor's act is not an entirely simple process. It is an expression of the inequality between the person who gives and the one who receives, underlining the condition of injustice, even while alleviating misfortune. Any kind of assistance, any kind of protection

against injustice and suffering, is inadequate if it treats only the effects without investigating the causes. To help is also to accuse.

Jean-Jacques Rousseau, wise from experience and sustained by pride, considered a gift to be a *contract presupposing the consent of both parties*.<sup>1</sup> It is only by the application of this rule that humanitarianism respects man's dignity.

The International Committee of the Red Cross chose, as proclaimed in its motto, to exercise charity amid the clash of arms.<sup>2</sup> Its primary aim was to provide greater assistance to the men wounded on the battlefield. Ever since, Red Cross action has been expanding to such an extent that anything related to assistance, care, relief operations, prevention of disease, is dealt with by one or other of the bodies operating under its emblem. But running through all those various activities one can discern a common thread binding them together, a single quality making for their close relationship to each other. Every ICRC action can be logically traced back to its original objective : to protect and assist every person bereft by circumstances of protection or assistance.



The Red Cross was the result of the feelings to which a just and sensitive man was moved at the sight of the distress caused by war. Such misery was naturally known before the advent of Henry Dunant. But, all too often, wounds and death were accepted as the inescapable ransom of war, the grim toll behind the glory.

Every army had its surgeons and ambulance men. With limited means and with the science of medicine still not fully developed, these men at times accomplished great feats. But far too many of the wounded soldiers, abandoned by their comrades-in-arms marching on to further combats, were left to breathe their last on the battlefields. The general public gave thought only to victories and triumphal arches. True, Jacques Callot and Goya left us graphic portrayals of the horrors of war; but the official war artist accompanying the French army in the Lombardy campaign was Meissonier.

And there, Henry Dunant, deeply impressed by the scene on the battlefield of Solferino, was conscious that the medical services' resour-

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<sup>1</sup> J.-J. Rousseau, *Ecrits biographiques*, Bibliothèque de la Pléiade, Œuvres complètes, t. I., p. 1190.

<sup>2</sup> *Inter arma caritas*, the ICRC motto, was suggested by Gustave Moynier.

ces were woefully inadequate for the huge number of victims. His reaction was immediate, in deed and in thought.

First, in deed. He provided all the comfort and care which it was within his power to give. No doubt, it was but a simple palliative, and insufficient at that, but the personal experience was enough to provide him with first-hand knowledge of the suffering he was to combat later.

Next in thought. Having identified the ill, he at once prescribed the remedy, namely, relief societies for the wounded, and the protection of the medical services by a universally acknowledged principle, that is to say by an international convention.

Three years were to elapse while the germ of Henry Dunant's project grew. He was resolved to present his scheme in a book, for Dunant's aspiration was to be a writer, and he expressed himself better in writing than in speech. He anticipated the impact of a carefully thought-out book on public opinion and it is thus with its publication that one can identify the historical origin of the movement which he created, and which had not yet received the name of the Red Cross.

Reviewers of *A Memory of Solferino* were not mistaken when they perceived in it the most lucid approach ever made at the time to the problem of war victims.

\* \* \*

Henry Dunant's striking idea was that equal attention and equal care must be bestowed on all the wounded alike, be they friends or foes.

It is not an easy thing to give medical care to a wounded soldier who is your enemy and such an act is impelled by a sentiment which is not very frequently encountered. This—we shall see later—could well be the sentiment of humanity. But humanity is not universally shared, and in the pursuit of war everything—propaganda, military training, fear, the hatred of one's adversary—is organized to throttle that feeling.

It is a more natural feeling to care for the wounded of one's own side. In order to survive, man must always form part of a group, be it clan, tribe, army or nation. Every person is bound to his own group by a sentiment of solidarity. By becoming a member, he takes part in its existence, and in return, his protection is ensured by the group.

This sentiment of solidarity is probably one of the most deeply rooted of man's instincts and it operates for his survival in the face of perils which he would not have the strength to withstand all alone. It need not necessarily be of an ethical character, since it may also be encountered in enterprises which have not been inspired by moral considerations.

But no one feels solidarity with an adversary, and all the less so as the source of solidarity is precisely the urge to unite in a company against some danger or against an enemy. To give care systematically and not only from time to time to an enemy who is no longer able to fight, in the same way that one would care for one's own comrades, calls for great self-restraint. It is not easy to change in an instant from extreme violence to deep compassion.

Henry Dunant bridged that gap by putting all the wounded and sick and those who care for them into a single world-wide class. Thereby all the antagonisms of nationality, of race or of party fade, giving way to solidarity with people of that category, who are separate from the class of combatants and distinguished from it by the emblem, which is also universal, and which protects them.

Furthermore, Dunant got people to take part in humanitarian work, through the institution of Relief Societies, whose voluntary members were recruited outside the armed forces. He thus made them conscious of the sufferings which others hid from their eyes, or of which they themselves might have preferred not to be told.

It was this global concept—some elements of which had already been apparent in past wars—which was new, and which not only was to prevail in combat, but was to grow through an extraordinary fulfilment.

This is not therefore mere skin-deep sentimentalism, but an orderly process, in which three successive stages may be observed:

- the perception of a tragic situation;
- the initiative leading to immediate action;
- the codification of rules in a treaty.

It is this “rule of three” which, when applied to the protection of the human person, later became a characteristic of ICRC procedure.

\* \* \*

Accordingly, when Gustave Moynier, the president of the *Société genevoise d'utilité publique*, set up a commission composed of himself, General Dufour, Dr. Maunoir, Dr. Appia and Henry Dunant, he found in Dunant's book a project that could be immediately translated into practical action. This was indicated in the decision taken on 9 February 1863 by that philanthropic society: "to take into serious consideration the idea put forward in the conclusions of *A Memory of Solferino*".

At its first meeting on 17 February 1863, the five-member commission decided it would continue its work as a permanent international committee under the name of *Comité international de Secours aux blessés (International Committee to bring relief to the wounded)*, which later took the name of *Comité international de la Croix-Rouge (International Committee of the Red Cross)*.

This Committee at once drew up its objectives. Its principal aims were:

- the creation of national committees for the relief of the wounded;
- the adoption of an emblem that could be universally used to distinguish the voluntary relief workers;
- the adoption of a "*Concordat agreed upon by governments*" that should safeguard all official or non-official persons working in aid of war victims;
- the respect for and protection of relief workers.

In addition, Henry Dunant, who had already in mind an organization much wider in scope than the one he had proposed in "*A Memory of Solferino*", demanded on his own initiative that the military medical personnel and those attached to them, including recognized voluntary relief workers, "*should be considered as neutral persons by the belligerent powers*". This was indeed a bold project, since it required a change in the national status of the medical service personnel. It was however a necessary measure in order to ensure the safety of the whole of this personnel and it has remained ever since—although the term "neutralization" was abandoned—the fundamental factor on which the protection of wounded and sick soldiers has been based.

From that time, the International Committee's movement made rapid progress. A draft agreement and invitations to a meeting were

sent to a number of governments, while Henry Dunant assiduously approached the royal and princely courts of the principal countries in Europe to acquaint them with the scheme.

On 26 October 1863, the representatives of sixteen States met in Geneva and on 29 October adopted after four days of discussion, ten resolutions which constituted the founding charter of the Red Cross. This fundamental document defined the functions and powers of committees whose mandate consisted in co-operating, when necessary, in time of war, with the medical services of the armies, by all the means in their power; it established the uniform distinctive sign of the voluntary ambulance workers—a white armlet marked with a red cross; it provided for international congresses where the committees and sections of the various countries would meet—this is the origin of the International Red Cross Conferences—and it laid down that communications between the various committees would be provisionally channelled through the Geneva Committee.

The resolutions were accompanied by the Conference's wishes—anticipating the programme of a congress of plenipotentiaries—addressed to the governments, and asking them to grant their protection to the relief committees thus constituted; to proclaim the neutralization in wartime of ambulances, hospitals, official medical staff, voluntary nursing personnel, local inhabitants going to the aid of the wounded, and the wounded themselves; and proposing the use of a distinctive sign and flag which would be the same for the medical corps of every army and for ambulances and hospitals.

Relief societies for the wounded were very soon constituted in Württemberg, the Grand Duchy of Oldenburg, Belgium, Prussia. But war again broke out, this time in Schleswig, between Prussia and Austria on one side and the Kingdom of Denmark. The International Committee, inaugurating a measure which was subsequently to become its principal method of action in time of war, sent two delegates to the scene of the fighting, with the authority of the specially created “ Geneva section ” of the “ Committee to bring relief to the wounded ”.

On 8 August 1864, at the invitation of the Swiss Federal Council, 26 official delegates, representing sixteen States—the United States of America being the only non-European country represented at the meeting—gathered in what was to be called later the “ Salle de l'Ala-

bama”<sup>1</sup> in Geneva’s Town Hall, to deliberate on the “Neutralization of the medical services of armed forces in the field”. The outcome of their deliberations was a *Convention for the Amelioration of the Condition of the Wounded in Armies in the Field*—the first Geneva Convention—signed on 22 August 1864 by the representatives of twelve States. The wishes of the Geneva Conference of 1863 were satisfied on almost every point: ambulances, military hospitals, army medical personnel and chaplains, and inhabitants bringing help to the wounded were all declared to be neutral; the wounded and sick combatants were collected and cared for, whatever nation they belonged to, and were protected; and a distinctive flag and armband, bearing a red cross on a white ground—the same sign which had been created for voluntary medical personnel—was adopted.

The voluntary medical personnel were not expressly mentioned in the first Geneva Convention. It was agreed that they would in practice be incorporated into the medical services of the armies and that the protective sign would be issued to them by the military authorities.

Thus, two years after the publication of *A Memory of Solferino*, the international institution to bring relief to the wounded was set up. The measures adopted, taken with the most commendable resolution, were to serve as a model for later Red Cross achievements. They included, in particular:

- the distinction between combatants and non-combatants, a concept which was extended to the protection of prisoners, civilian internees and all persons not taking part or unable to take any further part in the fighting;
- the use of the protective sign;
- the holding of International Red Cross Conferences at regular intervals;
- the convening of Diplomatic Conferences, in accordance with the procedure adopted in August 1864, with a view to extending the protection of humanitarian law;
- the despatch of delegates to the theatres of operations, to each of the parties involved in the conflict.

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<sup>1</sup> In this chamber was arbitrated on 14 September 1872 the dispute between the United States and Great Britain over the confederate vessel, the “Alabama”.

\* \* \*

What explains the astonishing success obtained by a committee composed of private citizens, who did not possess any particularly great means of their own, no political or financial backing, and no appreciable experience of international relations? The determination of the Committee of Five, the wave of emotion generated by *A Memory of Solferino* and Henry Dunant's persuasive powers in his propaganda campaign—"agitation" it was called at the time—on his visits to several crowned heads of Europe, all no doubt played an important part in getting the scheme off the ground.

But it should not be forgotten, too, that the birth of the Red Cross movement coincided with a period which was favourable to its development. The spread of social and philanthropic ideas, which stemmed (as Gustave Moynier pointed out) from the writings of the eighteenth century philosophers, and from Jean-Jacques Rousseau in particular, the recollection of the Napoleonic Wars with all the devastation which they had brought in their train, the losses incurred by the armies involved in the Crimean War and the Lombardy campaign, all combined to create a widespread public apprehension, reinforced by the introduction of compulsory military service in most of the larger States, a measure which made every citizen and every family take a personal interest in the condition of combatants. The rulers of the kingdoms and grand duchies of Germany were open to new philanthropic ideas and in general entertained no belligerent schemes. The great military powers in Europe had not yet embarked upon their policies of rivalry which were to lead them to the war of 1870. The Emperor of the French, a friend of General Dufour (his former instructor at the Military Academy of Thun in Switzerland) was anxious to justify the adoption of the motto which linked the French Empire with peace, immediately signified his assent to a principle which some of his field-marschals yet hesitated to encourage. The Kingdom of Prussia, at that time in full military reorganization, devoted the greatest attention to the schemes put forward by the Geneva Committee and put them almost immediately into practice.

\* \* \*

The Geneva Convention was concluded during a brief period of peace in Europe; the war in Schleswig-Holstein had just ended and hostilities between Austria and Prussia broke out only in 1866. It was very swiftly ratified, and without the reservations that were made in respect of later conventions. Four years after the foundation of the Red Cross, twenty-two States were parties to the Convention.

In the meantime, war operations were taking place overseas. The conquest of Cochin-China began in 1859, the year of Solferino; in Mexico, French troops were engaged in a protracted war; in North America, the War of Secession had not yet ended. The International Committee was conscious of the fact that, to be truly efficacious, the movement would have to be extended to all the countries in the world. It expressed this conviction as early as in its second session, when it met on 17 March 1863, just one month after it had been constituted. If that conviction was tempered by some reserve, that was due, since no other Red Cross body existed, to the International Committee's intention to establish a solid base for itself before going on to further stages:

*“ The Committee agreed, first and foremost, that, in its opinion, no action should be contemplated during civil wars, and that the Committees should concern themselves only with European wars. After a few years' experience, the welfare scheme, once universally adopted and established, could of course be extended in various ways, but for the moment we should confine ourselves to the question of large-scale conflicts between European Powers. ”*<sup>1</sup>

But six months later, conscious of the success of the first International Geneva Conference, Gustave Moynier stated in his closing address:

*“ You have come to lend support with your authority to the Committee's views, which under your auspices will spread all over the earth ”.*<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Minutes of the International Committee for Relief to Wounded Combatants, meeting of 17 March 1863, in *International Review of the Red Cross*, 1963, p. 67.

<sup>2</sup> *Compte rendu de la Conférence internationale de Genève*, 1863, p. 145.

## PROTECTION AND ASSISTANCE

The founders of the Red Cross lacked neither confidence nor imagination when they anticipated that their philanthropic institution would be “universally adopted and established”. The universality of the Red Cross is indeed an undisputed fact and, as had been foreseen by the Committee of Five, the scheme “was extended in various ways”, while remaining true to the line of thought which had been laid down by them. What would they see if they were to return today to study what had become of their enterprise?

They would find in practically every single country on earth National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, united in a federation, the League of Red Cross Societies; the ICRC, its composition enlarged and its resources amplified, continually engaged in protection and assistance operations; the Central Tracing Agency, an international body which has gradually built up a card index system containing 50 million cards and whose task it is to trace the persons whose whereabouts, because of the situations created by conflicts or disturbances, are unknown; the International Tracing Service at Arolsen, set up after the Second World War to collect all possible information on concentration camps; the Henry Dunant Institute, a research centre on the history, thought and law of the Red Cross, where persons interested in the Red Cross may receive advanced training; and, finally, the whole corpus of the Geneva Conventions, generated by the Convention on the protection of the wounded and sick in armed forces in the field, and extended in laborious stages to further areas of application, so that today six separate legal instruments elaborated by successive diplomatic conferences, provide more or less complete protection to the victims of maritime war, prisoners of war, civilian internees, the civilian population and combatants in civil wars and in wars of liberation.

The founders would, however, also find a world where wars and acts of violence have become a commonplace occurrence; where terror is the object of a delicate balance and the capacity to destroy hundreds of thousands of human beings is a potential political weapon; a world where human rights are increasingly affirmed but continually flouted;

where doubts are cast by some upon whether the centenary of the first Peace Conference, held at The Hague in 1899, will be celebrated at the end of the twentieth century in a world at peace or amid ruin and devastation.

It is however in such a world—and partly as a result of such circumstances—that the Red Cross has developed, and its evolution has taken such a form that there are few persons who have not somehow resorted to its services at some time or other. This development has, at the same time, produced such a proliferation of organizations, resolutions and treaties and has caused such an expansion of the ICRC's activities, that one could easily get confused if one sought to understand the structure of the ICRC without referring to the historical evolution which has shaped it.

\* \* \*

The ICRC's primary aim is to give protection and assistance to military and civilian victims in situations of armed conflicts and disturbances.

The purpose of protection is to guard human beings against measures that could do them harm: violence, deprivation of their basic rights, attacks on their physical or moral being.

Assistance provides people with what they lack to maintain a minimum level of existence: food, clothing, care, shelter, moral, intellectual and spiritual relief.

Those two actions nearly always go hand in hand. The first Geneva Convention bracketed them together when it laid down that ambulances and hospitals shall be *protected and respected* and that wounded combatants shall be *collected and cared for*. Medical care is inadequate if the wounded person is not protected, just as protection is insufficient if the wounded do not get medical treatment. Assistance and protection are the twin pillars of relief.

Similarly, the effect of the Central Tracing Agency's action in drawing up lists of detainees and missing persons is twofold: moral assistance, by providing captives with the means of communicating with the outside world, and protection, because a prisoner whose identity is established is less exposed to arbitrary measures.

Protection of prisoners of war, civilian internees and detainees implies assistance. Quite often, assistance can be provided only if protection is exercised. During the Second World War, the Powers exercising the blockade of Europe allowed the passage of goods by sea only to camps or regions where ICRC supervision was authorized. Where its protective action was not recognized—as, for instance, in the concentration camps in Germany—the blockade was not, in principle, lifted.

Reciprocally, an operation to provide assistance often opens the way to protective action. Historically, it was by putting into practice the resolutions which appointed the ICRC as the distributor of individual and collective parcels to prisoners of war that the ICRC began, at the beginning of the First World War, to send its delegates to visit camps.

\* \* \*

The history of the ICRC is tied to the history of peoples. It is determined by the events affecting them: wars, conflicts, disturbances, famines, population movements, family separations. The ICRC, which has often been a witness of dramatic circumstances, seeks to stop any recurrence of such events, or at least to minimize their effects. Thus, its development closely follows the march of political, military, economic and social events which form the canvas of history and which mould the ICRC to a certain extent. The periods marking the history of the world during the last one hundred and twenty years can also be seen as landmarks in the ICRC's progress in its effort to ensure the rule of humanitarian law in the face of escalating violence and of the technology of destruction. They may be likened to the five acts of a dramatic evolution, the final conclusion of which is still uncertain:

- from the foundation of the Red Cross to the First World War;
- the First World War;
- the period between the two World Wars;
- the Second World War;
- the post-war period.

The development of the ICRC, furthermore, cannot be separated from that of the Red Cross. The bodies which are a part of the Red Cross—the National Societies and the Leagues of Red Cross Societies—follow, like the ICRC, their own course and are free to make their own decisions. But they are all linked to each other like the liquid in communicating vessels, and any kind of movement by one or the other will affect the whole. That is why we must not overlook the part played by the various Red Cross bodies in the development and success of the movement, even while focussing our attention on the history and activities of the ICRC.

### 3

## FROM THE 1864 CONVENTION TO THE FIRST WORLD WAR

The International Committee's aim, after the success of the Diplomatic Conference of 1864, was not only to urge the creation of Relief Societies, but also to promote kinship and solidarity among them.

This was perhaps the most original aspect of the National Societies. Since they were to be auxiliary to the army medical services, bear the same emblem and be subjected in wartime to the military authorities, they might have given the impression that they were merely a reserve of extra medical personnel and medical supplies to draw upon in case of need. But the essential distinction between the Societies and the army medical services was that the former had a further objective, which was to entertain relations with each other. They were prepared to spring to the assistance of sister Societies, when asked to do so. Their function was twofold: to serve the nation to which they belonged, and to serve the international community.

The adherence to a community could not be established or maintained unless a central body could ensure the development and cohesion of such a relationship. It was in this that the ICRC found its calling. When it was given the function of an intermediary between the Central Committees, to provide them with information by publishing a bulletin, to ensure conformity of new members and notify the creation of new

committees, it became the prime mover of this rapidly expanding institution, the guardian of the doctrine and promoter of international law.

Not long after the conclusion of the Geneva Convention, the Franco-Prussian War had led the Relief Societies of several neutral countries to intervene. Twelve National Societies had sent assistance to the medical services of both belligerents, by providing medical teams, ambulances, relief goods and cash.

The International Committee was also active; it set up centres to provide information and forward relief goods, and it founded or lent its support to information agencies. Before the First World War, such agencies were successively set up in Basle (1870), Trieste (1877) and Belgrade (1912).

International humanitarian law was evolving rapidly. In Europe, many people were alarmed at the advances made in weaponry and at the threat of a large-scale conflict. The adoption of the Geneva Convention and the success of the Red Cross movement showed that it was possible to apply certain rules in the midst of the fighting. In 1899 and later in 1907, at The Hague, the Powers elaborated in a series of Conventions the regulations concerning the laws and customs of war. These included two texts which had a direct impact on the law of Geneva: one was the Convention for the Adaptation to Maritime Warfare of the Geneva Convention, and the other was the annex to the Hague Convention No. IV, known as the Regulations respecting the Laws and Customs of War on Land, which, for the first time, laid down a certain number of rules governing the treatment of prisoners of war and the rights of civilians in enemy-occupied territory.

At that time, the ICRC had not yet been given the mandate to provide assistance to prisoners of war or to visit prisoner-of-war camps. The problem had nevertheless arisen during the war of 1870. Could the ICRC undertake to forward relief supplies to the prisoners on both sides, under the cover of the Red Cross, as it was doing for the wounded? In its view, the emblem of the Convention was the exclusive sign of the army medical services and, therefore, should not be employed for activities which were not performed by those services. However, in its eagerness to extend the domain of benevolent aid without transgressing the law, the ICRC sponsored the creation of special committees which did not work under its own sign and could thus perform activities which did not fall within the ICRC's mandate. It therefore created, besides the Basle

Agency, a *Comité international de secours pour les prisonniers de guerre* (“International Committee for Aid to Prisoners of War”) whose emblem was a green cross on a white ground, and for interned soldiers, the *Agence centrale de secours pour les militaires internés en Suisse* (“Central Relief Agency in aid of Soldiers interned in Switzerland”), thus clearing the way for the work which was later to be included in the ICRC’s field of activity.

It was the Ninth International Red Cross Conference (Washington, 1912) which directed the ICRC to centralize relief for prisoners of war and to distribute relief parcels, “employing neutral delegates accredited to the Governments concerned”. Six months later, in October 1912, the ICRC despatched two delegates to the scene of action in the Balkan War and set up in Belgrade an International Agency to bring information and relief to the wounded and the prisoners, thus inaugurating the best known activity of the ICRC: action in the field.

## 4

### THE FIRST WORLD WAR

The real test for the Red Cross came with the outbreak of the First World War. All that it had built up during the past fifty years, all that it had gradually developed to meet needs arising in the small-scale conflicts which marked the pre-war period, in the unconstrained atmosphere of the international Conferences, was now to be assayed in the tough conditions of a violent, lengthy and widespread conflict, the like of which had never been met with previously.

The National Societies, which by now had solidly organized themselves, made preparations in the countries at war to collaborate with the army medical services and to perform the relief tasks expected of them to succour the wounded soldiers, prisoners and civilians. In the neutral countries close to the fronts, the National Societies got ready to bring relief to refugees and hospitalized soldiers.

In Geneva the ICRC lost no time in setting up the International Prisoners of War Agency. The Agency’s tasks were to collect and file all available information on military and civilian prisoners, the wounded

and the missing, to forward news, exchange messages and despatch parcels and money.

The introduction of weapons of mass destruction and those whose effects are indiscriminate, and the hardships endured in captivity, led the ICRC to conduct permanent activities in the fields of the protection of prisoners of war and civilian internees, of submarine warfare and of the use of chemical means of combat.

The treatment of prisoners of war was at that time governed by the Regulations annexed to the Hague Convention, and we have already seen that the Ninth International Red Cross Conference had asked the International Committee to undertake the distribution of relief parcels to individual prisoners and collective relief to prisoner-of-war depots. Basing itself upon these provisions and stressing the advantages to the belligerents of a reciprocal exchange of facilities, the ICRC obtained their authorization to visit prisoner-of-war camps and distribute relief parcels to the prisoners. It moreover submitted draft rules for the treatment of prisoners of war and played a significant part in the conclusion of special agreements between belligerents, providing for equivalent treatment to prisoners and organizing their repatriation, when family reasons, age or health warranted it. The ICRC's efforts in this domain, at times hindered by reprisals taken by one or other of the belligerents, are at the origin of the improvements made in the treatment of prisoners and they herald the Prisoners of War Code adopted by the Powers in 1929.

Since that time, visits to prisoner-of-war camps have come to be considered to be one of the most vital functions of the ICRC. It shares that responsibility with the Protecting Powers who also began at that period to visit camps.<sup>1</sup> The two functions complement each other without overlapping. The Protecting Power, in visiting prisoners and bringing them assistance, exercises the mandate it has received from the prisoners' country of origin, while the ICRC's objective is to visit prisoners of all nationalities held by all belligerents. Moreover the Protecting Power ensures the protection of the prisoners in consular matters, which include the provision of registration services and legal and financial aid, besides material assistance, while the ICRC carries out mainly tasks that are

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<sup>1</sup> The Protecting Power is a neutral State whose function in wartime is to represent the interests of a belligerent Power in the adversary's country.

more specifically humanitarian, save where, in the absence of a Protecting Power, it is designated to carry out the latter's functions.

For the first time, in the First World War also, the ICRC looked after the civilians in enemy or enemy-occupied territory, for whom protection was inadequate. It managed to have applied to civilian internees protection similar to that afforded to prisoners of war and it set up in the International Prisoners of War Agency a special section for civilian internees. The ICRC's initiatives in this domain anticipated the agreements relative to the protection of civilian persons in time of war, which were embodied in a specific convention only after the Second World War.

The extension of submarine warfare was a grievous development. Despite the protection recognised to them, hospital ships were torpedoed or bombed, either because only visual markings were employed and were not sufficiently visible, or else because those vessels had entered certain zones on the high seas which a belligerent had declared to be prohibited to all shipping. ICRC representations had very little effect on a practice which constituted one of the gravest breaches of the Conventions.

As for the use of chemical weapons, it was one of the dark episodes of this conflict. In its appeal of 8 February 1918 the ICRC called upon the belligerents not to resort to the use of poisonous gases. Its intervention and the campaign it conducted in the years immediately after the end of the war were at the origin of the Geneva Protocol of 17 June 1925, whereby the High Contracting Parties agreed not to use in war asphyxiating and other gases.

It was the first time that the ICRC intervened in matters concerning regulations on weapons, hitherto a field reserved to the law of The Hague. But the use of weapons with indiscriminate effects circumvents the law of Geneva, so that the purely academic distinction which was formerly made between these two aspects of humanitarian law got gradually more blurred after the Second World War.

*(To be continued)*

**André Durand**

# **ACTION BY THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS IN THE EVENT OF BREACHES OF INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW**

## **Introduction**

Supervision remains one of the most difficult problems in public international law and particularly in international humanitarian law applicable in armed conflicts.<sup>1</sup> Despite the system provided for under the Geneva Conventions and their additional Protocols and in default of an authority superior to States, grave violations are frequently committed without punishment or even prosecution.

The role which the International Committee of the Red Cross has to play in the event of such violations is delicate.

Firstly, the ICRC may take action on its own initiative, especially when its delegates are directly confronted with violations.

Secondly, the ICRC often receives complaints, and is generally expected to transmit them or to approach the authorities responsible, or to publicly state an opinion concerning the alleged violations.

Thirdly, the ICRC is sometimes asked to conduct an investigation to establish the truth of an alleged breach, or simply to record that violations have been committed.

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<sup>1</sup> By "international humanitarian law applicable in armed conflicts" the ICRC means international rules, established by treaties or custom, which are specifically intended to solve humanitarian problems directly arising from international or non-international armed conflicts and which, for humanitarian reasons, limit the right of parties to a conflict to use the methods and means of warfare of their choice or protect persons and property that are, or may be, affected by conflict. The expression "international humanitarian law applicable in armed conflicts" is often abbreviated to "international humanitarian law" or "humanitarian law".

In all three cases the attitude to be adopted by the ICRC is determined essentially by one criterion, namely the interest of the victims whom its mandate requires it to protect and assist. Its specific role as a neutral intermediary between parties to a conflict and its duty to treat all the victims of armed conflicts without discrimination require the ICRC, when faced with actual or alleged violations of international humanitarian law, to react only after having carefully weighed all the consequences that its reaction may entail for the victims.

It must, moreover, be remembered that it is the States which are responsible for the respect of international law and, more particularly, of the treaties binding them. The Geneva Conventions even expressly require States not only to respect them but to ensure respect for them.<sup>1</sup> The ICRC is not superior to the contracting parties and cannot assume a judicial power which has not been given to it and which, moreover, it has never wished to possess.

The foregoing considerations and also the sum of experience acquired led the ICRC to establish a number of rules for its own guidance. They are often ill-known outside the institution, and the purpose of this document is to enable readers to gain a better understanding of them.

This document does not deal, however, with the position adopted by the ICRC and its delegates when faced with violations of international law or humanitarian principles to the detriment of detainees whom they have to visit as part of the activities which the ICRC's mandate requires it to carry out in the event of internal disturbances or tensions within a given State. Since this type of activity is based on *ad hoc* agreements with governments, the problem has been tackled from a different angle and the ICRC follows specific guidelines in such situations.

## **1. Action taken by the ICRC on its own initiative**

During the missions of its delegates the ICRC remains in permanent contact with the authorities having control over the territory on which such missions are carried out. It therefore goes without saying that it will notify those authorities of any acts or omissions that in its opinion appear to be contrary to international humanitarian law. Such notifications depending on the importance of their contents may be made at various levels and may take various forms; they may range from an oral remark by a delegate to the director of a prison to a detailed report by the President of the ICRC to the government concerned.

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<sup>1</sup> See article I common to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 and article I, para. 1 of their additional Protocol I.

As a rule the steps thus taken remain confidential. In the event of major repeated violations, however, the ICRC, if it considers necessary to bring the facts to the knowledge of the public, will express openly its opinion and request that such violations be brought to an end or warn the parties concerned of the dangers or of the suffering resulting from steps they might be threatening to take. Such a public statement is the more justified when, despite their gravity, the committed violations do not cause any step to be taken by a third State.

Public statements are inevitably more incriminating and the ICRC has recourse to them sparingly, when three specific conditions are fulfilled: firstly, the violations must be major breaches of international humanitarian law; secondly, the publicity given to them must be in the interest of the persons or population affected or threatened; and, thirdly, either the ICRC delegates must have witnessed them with their own eyes or the violations must be matters of common knowledge.

While remaining true to its traditional policy of discretion and to its concern for the interest of victims, and in addition to making general appeals to the parties to a conflict with a view to obtaining respect for international law and permission to carry out its assistance activities for victims, the ICRC may thus make public the specific steps taken in the event of major or repeated violations of that law.

As a rule the ICRC does not express opinions on the use of weapons or methods of warfare. Any reaction it has will be determined by the condition of the victims affected or threatened if unlawful or purportedly unlawful weapons or methods are employed. It may very well, however, undertake steps or even make public statements if it considers that the mere fact of using, or threatening to use, a given weapon gives rise to an exceptionally grave situation.

The general appeals which the ICRC may launch concerning weapons outside the specific context of an armed conflict are not dealt with in this document.

## **2. Reception and transmission of complaints**

Under article 6 (4) of the Statutes of the International Red Cross the ICRC "takes cognizance of complaints regarding alleged breaches of the humanitarian Conventions".

The complaints referred to under this article may be divided into two categories.

The first category includes complaints or communications concerning the non-application or inadequate application of one or several provisions of the Conventions by the responsible Power in respect of persons pro-

tected by those Conventions, in circumstances where the ICRC can take direct action in favour such persons. The ICRC delegates are generally able to form an opinion on the validity of the complaints, which lead them to intensify their efforts. When taking suitable steps, such as visiting prisoner-of-war camps or civilian internee camps, the ICRC approaches the authorities to prevail on them to correct any malpractices or shortcomings reported by its delegates.

The second category includes protests against grave breaches of international humanitarian law committed in circumstances where the ICRC is unable to take direct action to help the victims. Such breaches may be acts violating rules whose application the ICRC cannot appraise, such as rules relating to the conduct of hostilities, or may be violations committed on the scene of hostilities to which the ICRC has no, or only very limited, access.

The procedure established between the two world wars by the International Red Cross Conferences for this second category of complaints, and followed especially during the Second World War, consisted, for the ICRC, in simply transmitting protests to the party incriminated, requesting that an inquiry be carried out and offering to forward the reply. Complaints from a National Society were sent to the Society of the country involved. Protests raised by a government were transmitted directly to the government concerned. The ICRC did not undertake to forward complaints by individual persons.

After the Second World War the ICRC realized that this procedure had yielded hardly any tangible results. It accordingly expressed its concern in a report to the Seventeenth International Red Cross Conference held in Stockholm in 1948. The Conference requested the ICRC to continue transmitting complaints but it strongly recommended that National Societies "do all in their power to ensure that their governments make a thorough investigation, the results of which shall be communicated without delay to the International Committee of the Red Cross".

Experience in the course of the following years, however, proved just as disappointing. The ICRC laid the matter once more before the International Conference at its Twentieth Session in Vienna in 1965. This time the Conference lightened the traditional procedure by taking note that "the ICRC will no longer transmit such protests, except in the absence of any other regular channel, where there is need of a neutral intermediary between two countries directly concerned". From then on the ICRC had all the more reason to refuse to transmit protests from third parties.

### **3. Requests for inquiries**

The Geneva Conventions of 1949 stipulate that “at the request of a party to the conflict, an inquiry shall be instituted, in a manner to be decided between the interested Parties, concerning any alleged violation of the Convention”.<sup>1</sup>

This article does not provide for any action by the ICRC, but the institution was nevertheless called upon a number of times to initiate inquiries: in 1936, for instance, when various incidents occurred in the course of the conflict opposing Italy and Ethiopia; in 1943, for the Katyn affair and in 1952, when a request was submitted for an inquiry into the alleged use of bacteriological weapons during the Korean war.

The weakness of the above provision lies in the fact that, in practice, it subjects the opening of an inquiry to consent by the parties involved. Violations committed in times of war raise difficult problems, for States in conflict are highly susceptible and by no means inclined to come to an understanding. This provision therefore never led to any result. In the last two instances mentioned above, one of the parties did not agree to an inquiry; in the first instance the two States involved had given their consent in principle, but the conflict ended before the procedure even began.

Already in 1939, at the beginning of the Second World War, the ICRC had determined the attitude it would observe in such situations and had made that attitude public. Its position has not varied since. In brief, the ICRC could not open an inquiry on its own initiative; the most it could do would be to take part in the setting up of a commission of inquiry, on request by the parties concerned. The ICRC then would merely make a selection, outside the institution, of persons qualified to form part of that commission.

In fact, the ICRC has never wished to be proposed as a body responsible for such inquiries, because that would be the first step of a judicial procedure, which does not lie within its purview. Moreover, by assuming that role the ICRC would find its neutrality called in question by at least one of the two parties, to the detriment of the unquestionably useful humanitarian activities carried out on that party's territory, and for an illusory result.

### **4. Requests to take note of violations**

Without being asked to open an inquiry, the ICRC may be called upon to record the result of violations of international humanitarian

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<sup>1</sup> Convention I, art. 52; II, art. 53; III, art. 132; IV, art. 149. (A similar provision was introduced in 1929 in the Convention relating to the wounded and sick.)

law. As was already mentioned, the ICRC is no judge above the parties involved. Moreover, it cannot engage in controversies that would only jeopardize its activities for the victims. The ICRC will therefore only comply with such requests if the presence of its delegates can facilitate its humanitarian tasks and if it has been assured that their presence will not be used to political ends.

## ***GUIDELINES IN THE EVENT OF BREACHES OF INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW***

### **1. Steps taken by the ICRC on its own initiative**

#### **General rule**

The ICRC shall take all appropriate steps to put an end to violations of international humanitarian law or to prevent the occurrence of such violations. These steps may be taken at various levels according to the gravity of the breaches involved. However, they are subject to the following conditions:

#### **Confidential character of steps taken**

In principle these steps will remain confidential.

#### **Public statements**

The ICRC reserves the right to make public statements concerning violations of international humanitarian law if the following conditions are fulfilled:

- the violations are major and repeated;
- the steps taken confidentially have not succeeded in putting an end to the violations;
- such publicity is in the interest of the persons or populations affected or threatened;
- the ICRC delegates have witnessed the violations with their own eyes, or the existence and extent of those breaches were established by reliable and verifiable sources.

### **Special rule**

The ICRC does not as a rule express any views on the use of arms or methods of warfare. It may, however, take steps and, if need be, make a public statement if it considers that the use or the threat to make use of a weapon or method of warfare gives rise to an exceptionally grave situation.

## **2. Reception and transmission of complaints**

### **Legal basis**

In conformity with article 6 (4) of the Statutes of the International Red Cross, the ICRC is entitled to take cognizance of “complaints regarding alleged breaches of the humanitarian Conventions”.

### **Complaints from a party to a conflict or from the National Society of a party to a conflict**

The ICRC shall not transmit to a party to a conflict (or to its National Red Cross or Red Crescent Society) the complaints raised by another party to that conflict (or by its National Society) unless there is no other means of communication and, consequently, a neutral intermediary is required between them.

### **Complaints from third parties**

Complaints from third parties (governments, National Societies, governmental or non-governmental organizations, individual persons) shall not be transmitted.

If the ICRC has already taken action concerning a complaint it shall inform the complainant inasmuch as it is possible to do so. If no action has been taken, the ICRC may take the complaint into consideration in its subsequent steps, provided that the violation has been recorded by its delegates or is common knowledge, and insofar as it is advisable in the interest of the victims.

The authors of such complaints may be invited to submit them directly to the parties in conflict.

### **Publicity given to complaints received**

As a general rule the ICRC does not make public the complaints it receives. It may publicly confirm the receipt of a complaint if it concerns events of common knowledge and, if it deems it useful, it may restate its policy on the subject.

### **3. Requests for inquiries**

The ICRC can only take part in an inquiry procedure if so required under the terms of a treaty or of an *ad hoc* agreement by all the parties concerned. It never sets itself up, however, as a commission of inquiry and limits itself to selecting, from outside the institution, persons qualified to take part in such a commission.

The ICRC shall moreover not take part in an inquiry procedure if the procedure does not offer a full guarantee of impartiality and does not provide the parties with means to defend their case. The ICRC must also receive an assurance that no public communications on an inquiry request or on the inquiry itself shall be made without its consent.

As a rule, the ICRC shall only take part in the setting up of a commission of inquiry, under the above-stated conditions, if the inquiry is concerned with infringements of the Geneva Conventions or of their 1977 Protocols. It shall on no account participate in the organization of a commission if to do so would hinder or prevent it from carrying out its traditional activities for the victims of armed conflicts, or if there is a risk of jeopardizing its reputation of impartiality and neutrality.

### **4. Requests to record violations**

If the ICRC is asked to record the result of a violation of international humanitarian law, it shall only do so if it considers that the presence of its delegates will facilitate the discharge of its humanitarian tasks, especially if it is necessary to assess victims' requirements in order to be able to help them. Moreover, the ICRC shall only send a delegation to the scene of the violation if it has received an assurance that its presence will not be used to political ends.

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**PREPARATION FOR THE  
TWENTY-FOURTH INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS  
CONFERENCE**

**Manila, 29 October-14 November 1981**

*Pursuant to a decision taken in May 1978 by the Standing Commission of the International Red Cross to accept the Philippine Red Cross Society's offer to host the next International Conference in Manila, that National Society sent in March this year invitations to conference members.*

*Members of the International Conference are the duly recognized National Red Cross Societies, States parties to the Geneva Conventions, the International Committee of the Red Cross and the League of Red Cross Societies. Invitations have been sent also to a number of observers, emerging National Societies and organizations which are concerned for the problems dealt with by the Conference.*

*The Conference itself will take place in Manila from 7 to 14 November. It will be preceded by various meetings of the Red Cross and of the League General Assembly, starting on 29 October, and by the Council of Delegates meeting on 6 November.*

*We give below the programme and provisional agenda as adopted by the Standing Commission:*

**DRAFT PROGRAMME**

*Thursday 29 October*

- 9.30 a.m. Permanent Scale of Contributions Commission of the League  
Commission on Red Cross and Peace
- 3 p.m. Permanent Scale of Contributions Commission of the League  
Commission on Red Cross and Peace

*Friday 30 October*

- 9 a. m. Finance Commission of the League  
9.30 a.m. Working Group on the Emblem  
2 p.m. Finance Commission of the League  
3 p.m. Working Group on the Emblem

*Saturday 31 October*

- 9.30 a.m. Executive Council of the League (VIIIth Session)  
3 p.m. Executive Council of the League (VIIIth Session)

*Sunday 1 November*

No meetings

*Monday 2 November*

- 9.30 a.m. Opening and first meeting of the Second Session of the  
General Assembly of the League  
3 p.m. Second meeting of the General Assembly of the League

*Tuesday 3 November*

- 9.30 a.m. Third meeting of the General Assembly of the League  
3 p.m. Fourth meeting of the General Assembly of the League

*Wednesday 4 November*

- 9.30 a.m. Fifth meeting of the General Assembly of the League  
3 p.m. Sixth meeting of the General Assembly of the League

*Thursday 5 November*

- 9.30 a.m. Seventh meeting of the General Assembly of the League  
3 p.m. Standing Commission of the International Red Cross  
Commission for the Financing of the I.C.R.C.

*Friday 6 November*

- 9.30 a.m. Council of Delegates  
3 p.m. Council of Delegates

*Saturday 7 November*

- Morning    Opening ceremony of the XXIVth International Conference  
of the Red Cross
- 3 p.m.     Plenary meeting
- 4 p.m.     Protection and Assistance Commission (I)  
General and Organizational Commission (II)  
Community Services and Development Commission (III)
- Evening    Reception offered by the Philippine Government

*Sunday 8 November*

No meetings

*Monday 9 November*

- 9.30 a.m.    Protection and Assistance Commission (I)  
General and Organizational Commission (II)  
Community Services and Development Commission (III)
- 3 p.m.     Protection and Assistance Commission (I)  
General and Organizational Commission (II)  
Community Services and Development Commission (III)

*Tuesday 10 November*

- 9.30 a.m.    Protection and Assistance Commission (I)  
General and Organizational Commission (II)  
Community Services and Development Commission (III)
- 3 p.m.     Protection and Assistance Commission (I)  
General and Organizational Commission (II)  
Community Services and Development Commission (III)

*Wednesday 11 November*

- 9.30 a.m.    Protection and Assistance Commission (I)  
General and Organizational Commission (II)  
Community Services and Development Commission (III)
- 3 p.m.     Protection and Assistance Commission (I)  
General and Organizational Commission (II)  
Community Services and Development Commission (III)

*Thursday 12 November*

No meetings (Preparation of Reports of Commissions)

*Friday 13 November*

9.30 a.m. Plenary meeting

3 p.m. Plenary meeting

*Saturday 14 November*

9.30 a.m. Plenary meeting

3 p.m. Plenary meeting

6 p.m. Standing Commission of the International Red Cross

**COUNCIL OF DELEGATES**

*Provisional Agenda*

1. Election of the Chairman, Vice-Chairmen and Secretaries of the Council of Delegates.
2. Proposals to be made for the election of the Chairman, Vice-Chairmen, Secretary General and Assistant Secretaries General of the Conference and approval of the Provisional Agenda of the Conference as drafted by the Standing Commission.
3. Election of the Drafting Committee of the Council of Delegates and proposals for the election of the Drafting Committee of the International Conference.
4. The Red Cross as a Factor for Peace.  
Report by the Commission on the Red Cross and Peace on its work (Decision No. 2/1977 and Session of the Council of Delegates, 1979).
5. Report by the Working Group on the Emblem (Decision No. 3/1977).
6. Action of the Red Cross against torture.
7. Information on the Joint ICRC/League Working Groups:
  1. Development of National Societies.
  2. Assistance.
  3. Information.

8. Report on the activities of the Henry Dunant Institute.
9. Funds and Medals.
  1. Award of the Henry Dunant Medal.
  2. Report on the award of the Florence Nightingale Medal and on the income of the Augusta Fund.
  3. Report of the Joint Commission of the Empress Shôken Fund.
  4. Report of the Council of the Foundation for the ICRC.
10. Miscellaneous.

## INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF THE RED CROSS

### PLENARY MEETINGS

#### *Provisional Agenda*

1. Election of the Chairman, Vice-Chairmen, Secretary General, Assistant Secretaries General of the Conference and of the Drafting Committee of the Conference on the proposal of the Council of Delegates.
2. Solemn reading of the Fundamental Principles of the Red Cross.
3. Report on the work of the Council of Delegates.
4. Appointment of Conference Commissions.  
 Commission I : Protection and Assistance.  
 Commission II : General and Organizational Matters.  
 Commission III: Community Services and Development.
5. Opening of the procedure for the election of the members of the Standing Commission of the International Red Cross.
6. Report on the work of the Standing Commission of the International Red Cross.
7. Reports of the Commissions and adoption of their resolutions and recommendations:
  - (a) Commission I.
  - (b) Commission II.
  - (c) Commission III.
8. Election of the members of the Standing Commission.
9. Place and date of the XXVth International Conference of the Red Cross.

## MEETINGS OF COMMISSIONS

### Commission I: Protection and Assistance

#### *Provisional Agenda*

1. Election of the Chairman, Vice-Chairmen, Rapporteur and Drafting Committee members.
2. Report on activities of the ICRC.
3. Geneva Conventions and Additional Protocols:
  1. Follow-up to Resolution III of the XXIIIrd International Conference of the Red Cross; Report on signatures, ratifications and accessions to the Protocols;
  2. Follow-up to Resolutions 17, 18 and 19 of the Diplomatic Conference on the reaffirmation and development of International Humanitarian Law applicable in armed conflicts (Geneva, 1974-1977);
    - Use of certain electronic and visual means of identification by medical aircraft (Resolution 17);
    - Use of visual signalling for identification of medical transports (Resolution 18);
    - Use of radio communications for announcing and identifying medical transports (Resolution 19);and follow-up to Resolution IX of the XXIIIrd International Conference on Red Cross emergency radio-communications;
  3. Follow-up given to Resolution 22 of the Diplomatic Conference (Geneva, 1974-1977);  
Follow-up regarding prohibition or restriction of use of certain conventional weapons.
4. Dissemination of knowledge and teaching of International Humanitarian Law and of the Principles and ideals of the Red Cross:
  1. Report on the implementation of Resolution No. VII of the XXIIIrd International Conference of the Red Cross, on “Dissemination of knowledge of International Humanitarian Law applicable in armed conflicts and of the fundamental Principles of the Red Cross”;

2. Report on the implementation of the "Programme of Action of the Red Cross with respect to dissemination of International Humanitarian Law and of the Principles and Ideals of the Red Cross, 1978-1981", and presentation of the Programme of Action 1982-1985;
3. Report on the work of the Joint Working Group of Experts on the dissemination of International Humanitarian Law and the Principles and Ideals of the Red Cross.
5. Emblem:
  1. Protection of the use of the emblem;
  2. Revision of the Regulations on the use of the emblem by the National Societies (adopted by the XXth International Conference of the Red Cross in Vienna, 1965);
  3. Information on the conclusions of the Council of Delegates on the emblem.
6. Report on follow-up to other Resolutions of the XXIIIrd International Conference, 1977 (Res. IV, V, VI, XII and XIV).
7. General policy of the Red Cross in refugee operations.
8. The role of the Central Tracing Agency as co-ordinator and adviser to National Societies and Governments (National Information Bureaux).
9. Miscellaneous.

## **Commission II : General and Organizational Matters**

### *Provisional Agenda*

1. Election of the Chairman, Vice-Chairmen, Rapporteur and Drafting Committee.
2. Reports on the activities of the League and of the National Societies.
3. Attitude of the Red Cross on the taking of hostages (Res. VIII, XXIIIrd International Conference, 1977).
4. Follow-up to Resolution No. XX/1977 of the XXIIIrd International Conference "Promoting the image of the Red Cross worldwide".

5. Report of the Commission for the financing of the ICRC and proposals for the future.
6. Progress report on the study on “Natural disaster relief actions and International Law — Protection of human beings in disaster situations”.
7. Amendments to the Principles and Rules for Red Cross Disaster Relief (Recommendation 6 of the 1st Session of the League General Assembly, 1979).
8. Voluntary service in the Red Cross.
9. Report on the work of the Joint ICRC/League Commission on the Statutes of National Societies (follow-up to Resolution VI of the XXIIInd International Conference, Teheran, 1973).
10. New regulations for the Henry Dunant Medal.
11. Reconsideration of the regulations for the Florence Nightingale Medal (Recommendation 2 of the 1st Session of the League General Assembly, 1979).
12. Twelfth edition of the International Red Cross Handbook.
13. Miscellaneous.

### **Commission III : Community Services and Development**

#### *Provisional Agenda*

1. Election of the Chairman, Vice-Chairmen, Rapporteur and Drafting Committee.
2. Co-operation between governments and Red Cross in organizing Primary Health Care programmes (follow-up to Recommendation 7 of the 1st Session of the League General Assembly, 1979).
3. Integration of Red Cross activities in Community services (follow-up to Resolutions XV and XVII of the XXIIIrd International Conference).
4. Development of National Societies in the context of national development plans (follow-up to recommendations of the 1st Session of the League General Assembly, 1979).

5. The role of the Red Cross in the development of national blood transfusion programmes (follow-up to Resolution XVI-XXIIIrd International Conference).
  6. Red Cross contribution to a better human environment in relation to governmental programmes (follow-up to Resolution XXI of the XXIIIrd International Conference).
  7. Report on follow-up to other resolutions of the XXIIIrd International Conference (Resolution XIX and XXII).
  8. Preparation of National Societies for emergency medical action.
  9. Miscellaneous.
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# INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

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## **Declaration of succession to the Geneva Conventions by Tuvalu**

The Government of Tuvalu, in a letter dated 9 February 1981 to the Swiss Federal Council, received on the 19th of the same month, stated that it considered itself bound to the four Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 for the protection of war victims, pursuant to their previous ratification by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

As a consequence of this declaration, Tuvalu became a party to the Geneva Conventions on 1 October 1978, the date of its independence.

Tuvalu is the 146th State to become a party to the Geneva Conventions.

## **Accession of St. Vincent and the Grenadines to the Geneva Conventions**

The Government of St. Vincent and the Grenadines, in a letter dated 20 March 1981 sent to the Swiss Federal Council and received on 1 April 1981, announced its accession to the four Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 for the protection of war victims.

St. Vincent and the Grenadines will become party to the Conventions, in conformity with their provisions, six months after the date on which the declaration of accession reached the depository, namely on 1 October 1981.

St. Vincent and the Grenadines is the 147th State to become party to the Geneva Conventions.

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## Correction to the authentic texts of Protocol I

*We reproduce below a notice from the Federal Department for Foreign Affairs relative to Protocol I adopted on 8 June 1977. This notice was sent on 20 January 1981 to the governments of States parties to the Geneva Conventions, pursuant to Article 100 of Protocol I and Article 26 of Protocol II.*

Referring to its notification of 12 October 1977 relative to the delivery of authenticated copies of the Protocols, the Federal Department for Foreign Affairs brings to the notice of the States concerned that an error has been observed in the original French and Spanish versions of Protocol I.

The first sentence of paragraph 2 of Article 59 of Protocol I should read as follows:

### *French text*

« Les autorités compétentes d'une Partie au conflit pourront déclarer localité non défendue tout lieu habité se trouvant à proximité ou à l'intérieur d'une zone où les forces armées sont en contact et qui est *ouvert* à l'occupation par une partie adverse... »

### *Spanish text*

« Las autoridades competentes de una Parte en conflicto pueden declarar localidad no defendida cualquier lugar habitado que se encuentre en la proximidad o en el interior de una zona donde las fuerzas armadas estén en contacto y que esté *abierto* a la ocupación por una Parte adversa... ».

The Federal Department for Foreign Affairs, as the depositary of the Protocols, purposes to make the necessary amendments, unless the States concerned convey to it their objections within 90 days of this notice.

The corrections, after the express or tacit consent of the States, will be the subject of an official report to the States parties to the Geneva Conventions.

## *EXTERNAL ACTIVITIES*

### **Africa**

#### **Financial appeals**

The ICRC and the League of Red Cross Societies launched two appeals to the international community in mid-February, to raise the funds needed to continue and extend their activities in Africa on behalf of victims of armed conflicts and natural disasters.

These appeals are for 52.5 million Swiss francs for the ICRC and 41 million Swiss francs for the League. The money is required to finance the activities of these two institutions during the period from 1 January to 31 December 1981.

#### **Delegate-general on mission**

Mr. Jean-Marc Bornet, the ICRC's new delegate-general for Africa, was on mission from 9 to 26 February, during which he visited Zimbabwe, Zaire and Angola. In Salisbury Mr. Bornet presided over a meeting of heads of delegations in southern Africa. In Angola, where he stayed from 15 to 25 February, the delegate-general had talks with representatives of the Angolan authorities and leaders of the local "Red Cross", the main topic being the ICRC's assistance activities to help the displaced populations of the Planalto region, where the conflict persists.

#### **Angola**

After being suspended in December 1980, mainly because of the danger which prevented the delegates from moving freely on the scene of action, the ICRC's relief operations for the displaced populations on the Planalto were resumed on 8 January 1981, though at a slower tempo

than before. In the first two months of 1981 more than 100 tons of relief supplies (food, soap, clothing, cooking utensils), representing a total value of 300,000 Swiss francs, were distributed.

Encouraged by the results achieved at Katchiungo, the ICRC installed a new special feeding centre at Bailundo in mid-January, where the patients, mainly children between 6 months and 14 years old, are kept on a special diet under the supervision of a medical delegate.

A Tracing Agency office was opened at the end of January at the ICRC delegation in Luanda. Besides its customary tasks (tracing missing persons, reuniting families, repatriations, etc.), it will also be available to deal with cases of detained foreign nationals whose country has no diplomatic or consular representation in Angola.

### **Namibia/South West Africa**

From 28 to 30 January two ICRC delegates again visited the Mariental camp (Namibia/South West Africa), where they saw 117 persons detained for security reasons. It was the ICRC's third visit to this place of detention, after the first one in June and the second one in September 1980.

### **Zaire**

Mr. Jean-François Labarthe, ICRC delegate responsible for detention problems, went on mission to Kinshasa from 15 January to 3 February, during which he met several ministers and senior officials of the Zaire Government. In the course of his discussions he gave them an account of the ICRC's protective activities in Zaire, emphasizing the need to visit all places of detention controlled by the civilian and military security services and by the police.

In February the ICRC visited the military prison of N'Dolo, where it was given access to persons detained for reasons of security. Two visits were likewise made to the Makala prison, and to places of detention under the authority of the National Centre of Research and Investigation (CNRI).

In addition the Tracing Agency office, which has been incorporated in the Kinshasa delegation since November 1980, has been recording details of detainees visited, transmitting messages between persons in detention and their families, and dealing with requests for enquiries. In the first two months of this year it received 34 requests for enquiries and was able to respond satisfactorily to 13 of them.

## **Ethiopia**

On 10 February the ICRC again visited the Somali prisoners of war held at Harar; 60 prisoners were seen on this occasion, 22 for the first time.

The rehabilitation centre for war disabled, organized by the ICRC at Debré Zeit, was the scene in January of the first graduation of Ethiopian orthopaedists and physiotherapists. After a year's training and studies under the supervision of the ICRC medical team working at the centre, about thirty young people successfully passed their examinations in the presence of the ICRC's Chief Medical Officer and two orthopaedic specialists, who had come from Geneva specially for this occasion. The certificates presented by the ICRC—which still have to be certified by the Ethiopian Ministry of Health—will entitle the new graduates to work as assistants, with the possibility of subsequently perfecting their knowledge.

The material assistance distributed by the ICRC between 1 January and 28 February 1981, through the intermediary of the Ethiopian Red Cross and the social welfare centres, consisted of 160.5 tons of relief supplies (foodstuffs, soap, blankets, bales of cloth, etc.) to the value of approximately 243,000 Swiss francs for people displaced in the provinces of Hararge, Bale, Sidamo, Gondar, Tigre and Eritrea.

## **Somalia**

From 23 January to 22 February 1981 the ICRC made another mission to the Democratic Republic of Somalia, pursuant to the one made in December 1980.

The purpose of this mission, in which a medical delegate also took part, was to make a survey in the regions affected by military operations to determine the medical situation and need of assistance; to obtain the government's authorization to visit all prisoners of war interned on Somalian territory; and to negotiate the opening of a delegation in Mogadiscio.

Despite all the ICRC's endeavours, these objectives were not achieved, apart from a rapid medical evaluation along the Somali-Ethiopian frontier. In his sole official interview during his stay in Mogadiscio, with General Ismail, Commander-in-Chief of the Custodial Corps, the ICRC delegate stressed the Somali Government's responsibilities towards the prisoners of war interned in Somali territory and the ICRC's concern to discharge its protective duties in the country.

It should be mentioned that in August 1979 Mr. Richard Pestalozzi, Vice-President of the ICRC, obtained from Mr. Siyad Barre, President of the Somali Republic, agreement in principle to ICRC visits to prisoners of war.

Furthermore the ICRC submitted on 5 February to the Somali authorities, through the Permanent Mission of Somalia in Geneva, an official request to open an ICRC office in Mogadiscio.

## **Uganda**

In January and February 1981 the ICRC was active in two different spheres in Uganda, providing protection and assistance for the civilian population afflicted by events in the West Nile province, and visiting places of detention.

In the West Nile province, where the ICRC has been active since November 1980, a sub-delegation was opened at the beginning of the year and reinforced in February by the arrival of a second delegate. Frequent tours by ICRC delegates to religious missions sheltering displaced persons (in the Moyo, Nebbi and West Madi districts) and visits to hospital centres in the Maracha, Arua, Vurra and Terego regions were accompanied or followed by the distribution of foodstuffs and medicaments. Twelve tons of relief supplies (food, blankets, soap, cooking utensils) were distributed in July and 16 dispensary kits, 6 pediatric kits and 9 dressing kits were handed to two hospitals and eight dispensaries.

In addition ICRC delegates visited and registered 38 detainees at Gulu prison, civilians and former members of the armed forces, arrested in November and December 1980.

An ICRC team consisting of four delegates and one nurse made a new series of prison visits at the end of January to eight places of detention which had already been visited in August 1980 and had received assistance over the past few months in the form of medicaments, foodstuffs and diverse relief supplies. The ICRC delegates also had 28 detainees transferred from Rwimi prison to that in Fort Portal so that they could be given adequate medical treatment.

As the authorities had proceeded to release an initial contingent of detainees, the ICRC helped to transfer a number of them from their prisons to the Wairaka centre, near Jinja, where they were taken in charge by the Ministry of Rehabilitation and the Salvation Army. Between 22 January and 7 February, 279 detainees were released in this way. The ICRC, which had frequently interceded for most of them for humanitarian reasons (age, physical disability, etc.), acceded to the government's

request to give them some material assistance in the form of mattresses, blankets and clothing.

During the first two months of the year the ICRC distributed 19 tons of relief supplies in the West Nile province and almost 9 tons in the prisons.

### **Sudan**

The ICRC delegation in Khartoum continued its activities throughout 1980 to provide protection and assistance for the refugees of various nationalities on Sudanese territory.

The ICRC retained responsibility for the Kassala hospital, where a medical and surgical team made available by the Swiss Red Cross is working. The hospital mainly dispenses treatment to refugees from the Eritrean conflict. The medical team also visits two refugee camps and keeps the dispensaries there stocked with medicaments.

In July 1979 a rehabilitation centre for Eritrean paraplegics was organized by the ICRC at Port Sudan in conjunction with the Eritrean Relief Association. The ICRC provided assistance in the form of personnel, equipment and medicaments and arranged for the training of local staff in the care of paraplegics. The ICRC's participation ended on 28 February 1980. During this period of collaboration the centre treated 174 paralysed patients.

The ICRC opened a tracing office at its delegation in Khartoum in early 1980. In the course of the year the tracing office set up seven offices in provincial areas where refugees had gathered. These regional offices are run by local employees and voluntary workers.

The ICRC delegation in Khartoum also despatched relief supplies to Eritrea for the displaced civilian population there and prisoners detained by the liberation movements. These supplies consisted primarily of foodstuffs (contributing to the maintenance of 60,000 people), blankets, clothing, cooking utensils and medicaments, which were handed to Eritrean relief organizations for transport and distribution. The ICRC also delivered medicaments and medical equipment worth more than 700,000 Swiss francs to hospitals set up by the Eritrean movements.

A charitable organization in Tigre was also provided with medicaments for the victims of events in that part of Ethiopia.

### **Chad**

After resuming its activities in Chad at the end of December 1980, as reported by *International Review*, the ICRC requested the head of its

Relief Division, Mr. Philippe Dind, to assess the needs of the civilian population afflicted by the fighting that broke out at N'Djamena at the end of the year. Following this mission the ICRC decided to continue its medical assistance and food aid for a limited period, until other charitable organizations could gradually take over as the situation returned to normal.

In early February the ICRC sent about 7 tons of medical equipment and medicaments worth 100,000 Swiss francs to be distributed among the various dispensaries and hospitals in and around N'Djamena. In addition 7.5 tons of foodstuffs were delivered for the nursing staff and patients in the hospitals. Since hygienic measures had become imperative (removal of bodies, municipal cleaning), the ICRC provided the refuse disposal employees with disinfectants and food aid.

Furthermore the ICRC and the Chad Minister of Health and Social Affairs have jointly undertaken a programme of food aid for needy families in the capital: 12 kg of rice and 1 litre of oil per family are being supplied by the ICRC and distributed by the Chad authorities.

In the course of the tracing office's work, 40 enquiries were started in the first two months of the year and 3 cases were satisfactorily concluded. In addition 16 family messages were passed on through the ICRC.

The ICRC delegation in Chad, which was set up provisionally at Kousseri on the Cameroon side of the Chari River, was reinstalled at N'Djamena on 1 March.

## **Latin America**

### **Mission by the director of Operations**

In the course of periodical visits to the various ICRC delegations throughout the world Mr. Jean-Pierre Hocké, director of the Operations Department, went on mission to El Salvador from 27 February to 5 March to see how needs were developing, and assess the material and financial resources required by the ICRC to continue its activities on behalf of all the civilian victims of events there.

Together with Mr. André Pasquier, ICRC delegate-general for Latin America, who had already been there since 23 February, Mr. Hocké had talks with members of the governing Junta and several ministers, as well as with leading representatives of the El Salvador Red Cross. These talks were mainly concerned with the ICRC's activities in El Salvador to

provide protection, food and medical assistance, and with the dissemination of knowledge of the principles of the Red Cross.

In order to dispel any misapprehensions as to its role and activities in El Salvador, the ICRC made a point of stressing that in accordance with its fundamental and immutable principles of neutrality and impartiality, it extends its aid to all victims, whoever they may be, who are protected by the Geneva Conventions, and that its action may in no case favour one side to the detriment of the other.

The ICRC furthermore pointed out that as a private institution acting with complete independence, it never engages in an enquiry at the request of a government or a governmental organization. Its rule in all its operations is to ensure, by the presence of its delegates, that its assistance does in fact reach the victims.

### **Mission by the delegate-general**

Mr. André Pasquier, ICRC delegate-general for Latin America, completed a mission from 13 February to 4 March which took him to Nicaragua and El Salvador.

### **Argentina**

Visits to places of detention in Argentina, interrupted in mid-December for the holiday period of the end of the year, started again on 15 January. ICRC delegates went to the Villa Devoto prison in Buenos Aires, where they saw 294 detainees. In February they visited Rawson prison and interviewed without witness 240 detainees. They likewise had access to five other places of detention, where they interviewed without witness 35 persons.

### **Chile**

Between late January and mid February the ICRC regional delegate for the Southern Cone made a further series of visits to places of detention in Chile, where he had access to some 200 persons detained for political reasons.

### **Nicaragua**

The problems relating to the ICRC's protective activities were one of the subjects discussed by the delegate-general for Latin America with members of the governing Junta and senior government officials during his stay in Managua from 13 to 21 February.

Besides the visits to prisons, which continued regularly in January and February, the ICRC was authorized to go to farming areas where detainees had been transferred to help with the coffee and cotton crops. ICRC delegates thus had access to two provincial camps, where they saw 333 and 588 detainees respectively and were able to talk to 80 of them.

In addition the ICRC approached the authorities to request an amnesty for about fifteen ailing and aged detainees. Their request was granted.

In all about ten places of detention, comprising some 2,500 people, were visited by ICRC delegates in the first two months of the year.

Relief supplies consisting of almost 29 tons of foodstuffs (rice, oats, milk powder, cheese) worth 32,200 dollars were distributed in the prisons in January, as part of the ICRC's food aid programme.

### **El Salvador**

Following the armed clashes between guerrilla movements and government forces in El Salvador in January, ICRC delegates went to various parts of the country affected by fighting to assess the new needs resulting from the hostilities, and examine how relief measures for the displaced populations should be continued. They visited several localities in the Morazan, La Paz and Chalatenango departments, wherever safety permitted.

Despite the difficulty of moving around the country, because of the blocked roads and the general danger involved, foodstuffs for some 6,000 people were distributed in San Miguel and San Francisco Gotera. In the latter locality the ICRC delegate joined in with the El Salvador Red Cross to evacuate several hundred people, who had taken shelter at a health centre, to places of greater safety. In addition the ICRC, in conjunction with the National Society, gave foodstuffs and medical treatment to some 2,300 people in the village of Las Vueltas. However, ICRC activities were suspended in other localities in the Chalatenango province which were cut off from the outside world.

A medical delegate sent out from Geneva went on mission to El Salvador from 15 January to 9 February and visited the Morazan province. He observed there a grave need for medical assistance and selected five particularly hard-hit village with some 11,000 displaced persons for emergency medical aid. The ICRC set up a mobile medical team, composed of two doctors, one nurse and a driver, all locally recruited, which began from mid-February to visit these villages once a week to give consultations and dispense medicaments.

The ICRC delegates continued their protective activities, both in the capital and in the provinces. In January they went to 14 places of detention (security posts, military barracks, police stations, places under the authority of the Ministry of Justice), where they saw some 650 detainees, 192 of them for the first time.

The Tracing Agency at San Salvador registered nearly 200 new requests for enquiries, an increase of more than 50% compared with the number in previous months; 48 requests for enquiries into the whereabouts of missing persons were satisfactorily solved, and 21 cases were settled without ICRC intervention.

## Asia

### Delegate-general's mission

From 20 January to 12 February Mr. Jean de Courten, ICRC delegate-general for Asia and Oceania, went on a mission to Thailand, Japan, the Republic of Korea and Indonesia.

In Thailand, where he stayed from 20 to 25 January, the delegate-general met representatives of the General Staff, the National Security Council, the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and the Thai Red Cross to whom he explained ICRC plans for its activities in Thailand and at the Kampuchean border in 1981.

While in Japan from 26 to 28 January, Mr. de Courten discussed ICRC activities in Asia and their financing with officials from the Japanese Red Cross and from the Ministry for Foreign Affairs.

In the Republic of Korea where he stayed from 29 January to 2 February at the invitation of the National Red Cross Society, the delegate-general had talks with the Prime Minister, the Minister for National Unification, the acting Minister for Foreign Affairs and representatives from the Republic of Korea National Red Cross, for whom he outlined the activities of the ICRC.

During his visit to Indonesia from 3 to 12 February, Mr. de Courten took part in the Second Regional Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in Asia and the Pacific, which was held in Jakarta. He also conferred with the Minister for Foreign Affairs and the leaders of the Indonesian Red Cross on the follow-up to the ICRC assistance and protection action in Indonesia and in East Timor.

### **Assistance for the Kampuchean people**

On 8 January a meeting convened in Geneva by UNICEF was attended by the organizations involved in the operation (ICRC, UNICEF, HCR, FAO, WFP) to discuss the funding of the relief action for the Khmer people in Thailand and Kampuchea. After reviewing the results of the meeting of donor countries held on 10 December 1980 in New York, the United Nations organizations decided to cut their budget for their activities in Thailand and Kampuchea in 1981 from 200 million to 180 million dollars; the ICRC likewise reduced its budget from 32 to 26 million dollars by limiting its intervention to essential and emergency activities.

On 5 February Mr. K. Waldheim, Secretary-General of the United Nations, addressed a message of thanks to the ICRC President, expressing his satisfaction that a new form of co-ordination would continue in 1981 with UNICEF both on the Thai border and in Kampuchea after the joint action of the two organizations had terminated.

### **Kampuchea**

After the departure in mid-November 1980 of the medical team put at the disposal of the ICRC by the German Red Cross in the German Democratic Republic, a doctor and a nurse from the ICRC continued to provide medical assistance at the Kompong Thom hospital. At the end of January the hospital was running smoothly and the permanent presence of the ICRC staff was considered superfluous. The technical installations undertaken by the ICRC will be completed and the hospital will still be supplied with medicines and medical equipment.

From 23 to 27 January ICRC delegates toured the orphanages in the provinces of Kompong Chhnang, Pursat and Battambang to supervise the distribution of relief. In the five orphanages visited it appeared that the goods had been distributed in accordance with ICRC standards and according to plan. The aid distributed came from the ICRC and UNICEF and consisted of blankets, mosquito nets, sanitary and kitchen units, school equipment and games. This aid had been financed by a donation from a Swiss business concern and by the provision of 58,000 Swiss francs and 20 tonnes of biscuits by the Netherlands Red Cross.

The plane chartered by the ICRC carried 174 tonnes of aid worth 768,000 dollars in 26 flights from Bangkok to Phnomh Penh from 1 January to 25 February. In addition, 62 tonnes of aid were transported on behalf of FAO, UNICEF and HCR.

**Thailand**

The "NW9" camp where there are about 2,800 refugees of Vietnamese origin is the only camp on the Thai-Khmer border in which food from the ICRC is still distributed; from 1 January to 28 February the ICRC distributed in this camp 83 tonnes of food and other aid worth around 35,000 dollars.

On 10 February the surgery ward and the ICRC office at the Khao-I-Dang camp were destroyed by fire. The accident did not cause any victims; all patients were conveyed to other hospitals. Cleaning-up and rebuilding operations were undertaken immediately and on 17 February the hospital was already operating again. Generally speaking, the number of casualties hospitalized either at Khao-I-Dang or in camps near the border increased. From 110 a day in December 1980 it went up to 194 in January 1981; 80% of them were war wounded. Notwithstanding, co-operation with the voluntary relief agencies meant that the ICRC was able to reduce the number of its medical staff: on 1 March there were 27 ICRC doctors and nurses working on the border and in the Khao-I-Dang hospital, not including the technical and administrative staff. In January and February the cost of ICRC medical and paramedical assistance at the Thai-Khmer border totalled around 180,000 dollars.

For the first two months of the year the work of the Tracing Agency in Bangkok was very considerable. In February alone the ten delegates and the hundred or so locally recruited employees opened 618 enquiries, closed 189 files and treated 6,348 cases; 97,200 letters were sent or received and 363 persons were transferred from one camp to another.

From the beginning of the operation on behalf of the Kampuchean people, i.e. from December 1979, to the end of February 1981, the Bangkok Tracing Agency opened 45,000 enquiries concerning 12,300 Khmers and Vietnamese.

**Malaysia****Refugees in South East Asia**

On 10 and 11 January a meeting was held in Kuala Lumpur, attended by the ICRC, the League, the National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies of the countries directly concerned with the problem of refugees of Vietnamese origin, and representatives of the Malay Government, the diplomatic corps, the HCR and ICM.

At this meeting the ICRC representative pointed out in his speech that, although the international community had known of the problem for more than two years, piracy was still rife. More than half of the

refugee boats were still attacked at sea owing to the niggardly protection measures in national and international waters. He appealed to the authorities to take protection measures and underlined that the Red Cross could play a role in the struggle against piracy by exerting moral pressure on those who were in a position to take the necessary measures.

On 1 February the special joint League-ICRC office for co-ordinating the relief action in favour of refugees of Vietnamese origin was closed; the two institutions will, however, continue to keep in contact and exchange information. For its part, the ICRC will keep a co-ordinator from the Central Tracing Agency in South East Asia to supervise the smooth running and development of the postal and tracing services (which will continue to be financed by the ICRC) of the National Societies of Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia, the Philippines, Thailand, Macao, Hong Kong and China. All these national tracing offices are interlinked by the Central Tracing Agency in Geneva, which has registered more than 550,000 Vietnamese refugees.

### **Indonesia**

Four ICRC delegates, including one doctor and one interpreter, began a new series of visits to persons arrested and sentenced in connection with the attempted coup d'état in 1965.

### **Philippines**

An ICRC delegate was sent on a mission to Manila from 29 January to 6 February. In talks with government representatives he examined the situation of detainees after the presidential amnesty and the lifting of martial law as well as the possibility of a series of visits to these detainees.

On 5 March 1981 a visit was made to 18 detainees in the Military Security Unit at Fort Bonifacio in Manila.

### **Vietnam**

Four flights were made on 22 and 29 January, on 12 and 26 February to repatriate Taiwanese nationals. Thanks to these operations organized by the ICRC 603 persons were repatriated from Vietnam to Formosa.

### **Pakistan**

In January and February the ICRC medical action in favour of Afghan refugees in Pakistan increased. At the end of February three ICRC mobile medical teams were at work in ten camps for refugees in

Kurran and North Waziristan. In each of these camps permanent health centres were set up; more than 157,000 refugees benefit from the services of the ICRC medical teams supervising these centres. A fourth team has now begun work in the Adisaï camp thirty kilometres from Peshawar where a permanent health centre has also been set up.

Since October 1980 the ICRC has been supplying standard first aid parcels containing bandages and basic medicines to various organizations (including "Médecins sans frontière") assisting victims of the Afghan conflict.

## **Middle East**

### **Delegate-general's missions**

Mr. Jean Hoefliger, ICRC delegate-general for the Middle East, went on a mission to Iraq from 5 to 11 March and to Iran from 12 to 18 March. In each of these countries he had talks with the authorities concerning ICRC activities in favour of the victims of the conflict.

### **Iraqi-Iranian conflict**

In January and February the ICRC continued its protection action.

In **Iraq** ICRC delegates carried out three visits to two camps holding about 2,000 prisoners of war, of whom 87 were examined by the medical delegate. In addition, a smallpox prevention campaign was undertaken on the recommendation of the ICRC and all the prisoners were vaccinated.

The Tracing Agency recorded 2,647 requests for investigations during the first two months of the year and settled 275 cases. In addition 8,252 family messages were received and 4,964 transmitted.

In **Iran**, apart from the continuation of visits to prisoners of war, the ICRC delegates carried out a survey from 14 to 20 February in the eastern province of Khorassan where there are thousands of displaced persons having fled the fighting in the west of the country. They visited several centres sheltering these people, who are taken care of by the Ministry of the Interior. The Ministry co-ordinates activities undertaken for their benefit by the Iranian Red Crescent and by organizations depending on other ministries.

The ICRC delegates visited also a camp in the province of Khorassan where there were about 600 refugees from Afghanistan.

As far as visits to political prisoners are concerned, the ICRC delegates visited the Meshed prison in the east of Iran on 17 and 18 February, where they saw 269 persons detained by order of the Islamic courts.

### **Israel and occupied territories**

In collaboration with the Amman and Beirut delegations, the ICRC delegation at Tel Aviv carried out two repatriation operations involving three persons: on 22 January a Lebanese detainee, who had been released by the Israeli authorities, returned home across the border post of Roshanikra (Ras Nakoura) and on 17 February two Jordanian civilian internees released by Israel returned to their country by the Allenby bridge.

### **People's Democratic Republic of Yemen**

From 25 February to 8 March Mr. Peter Küng, ICRC regional delegate for the Arabian peninsula, went on a mission to the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen where he met members of the government (including the Ministers of Defence and of Health, the latter also being the President of the local "Red Crescent") and several high ranking civil servants.

After having been given permission by the authorities to visit the detention centres, the ICRC delegate visited the Mansoura and Sabr prisons where he saw some 400 detainees. He interviewed four of them without witnesses.

The last mission carried out by an ICRC delegate in the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen dates back to 1976 and the last prison visits to 1973.

## **Dissemination of international humanitarian law**

### Summary of work in 1980

*The ICRC, the League and the Henry Dunant Institute, along with a number of Red Cross National Societies, continued their efforts in 1980 to familiarize people with international humanitarian law and the principles of the Red Cross. As it has done before, International Review provides in this issue a summary of action carried out in this field during the past year.*

#### **Dissemination in the armed forces**

##### *Course for young military medical officers*

In the framework of its action for diffusion to the military, the ICRC took part in the 9th International Advanced Course for Young Medical Officers, organized by the International Committee of Military Medicine and Pharmacy at Athens from 21 to 30 April 1980.

Medical subjects constituted the principal part of the event, but, in accordance with tradition, there was also a lecture on aspects of the Geneva Conventions and the additional Protocols of direct concern to medical officers. As on previous occasions, the lecture was given by Lieut. Col. de Mulinen, ICRC delegate to armed forces.

##### *Seminar for Senior Officers in Military Medical Services*

Following an initial seminar in French in 1979, the International Committee of Military Medicine and Pharmacy convened, from 24 September to 1 October 1980, a second seminar, this time in English, on the law of armed conflicts, for senior officers in military medical services. The seminar was held at the Henry Dunant Institute in Geneva. It was

presided over by Divisional General Käser, former director of Swiss Army Medical Services and former chief medical officer of the ICRC. The 26 participants came from Canada, Denmark, the Netherlands, the Federal Republic of Germany, Sweden and Switzerland.

### *Courses at San Remo*

The International Institute of Humanitarian Law at San Remo, Italy, as in the past, organized two international courses in 1980 on the law of war. These courses for officers, the 8th in the series in English and the 9th in Italian, were led by Lieut. Col. de Mulinen, Swiss Army Staff officer, ICRC delegate to armed forces and director of military courses for the Institute. In the light of experience in previous years and the growing interest of military authorities in the countries represented, the duration of the courses in 1980 was increased to two weeks.

A particular theme was studied each day. The course began with an introductory lecture and then continued in the form of separate seminars, each having no more than ten participants, under the leadership of staff officers who, in principle, had already taken at least one such course. During the two weeks, participants familiarized themselves with the main texts of the law of war: the Hague Conventions, the Geneva Conventions and the 1977 Protocols. These texts were not studied serially. Instead, the law of war was approached through study of a series of minor tactical events, for which the participants had to seek out the relevant legal provisions.

### **Dissemination among young people**

The first meeting of leaders of the Junior Red Cross in Asia and the Pacific was held in *Melbourne* from 10 to 16 February. During the meeting, in which an ICRC delegate took part, one and a half days were devoted to the theme "International Humanitarian Law and the Principles of the Red Cross". In the discussions which followed, the participants reaffirmed the necessity of disseminating the fundamental rules of international humanitarian law and the principles of the Red Cross among young people. There was also unanimous agreement that such an effort required the creation of suitable audiovisual material and the intensive training of "agents for dissemination". At the conclusion of the meeting, the participants adopted a recommendation

asking the ICRC, the League and the Henry Dunant Institute to create audiovisual material to facilitate dissemination among young people.

\* \* \*

The 5th European Meeting of National Directors of the Junior Red Cross took place in *Budapest* from 17 to 22 March. Twenty-one European National Societies took part in the meeting, in which the ICRC and the League were represented. Two subjects were discussed: the work of the Red Cross among university students and the methods and means for international co-operation among the youth sections of the National Societies. With regard to the first theme, the participants stressed the importance of recruiting members of the Junior Red Cross among students and they noted that members of the Junior Red Cross are the best agents for dissemination in universities.

\* \* \*

The regional delegation of the ICRC was invited to participate in the National Youth Leaders' Seminar organized by the Kenya Red Cross Society at *Nairobi* from 7 to 12 April. The delegates availed themselves of this opportunity to discuss the dissemination of the Geneva Conventions and to provide information about the Central Tracing Agency. Some sixty leaders of the Junior Red Cross in Kenya, among whom there were many teachers, took part in the seminar.

\* \* \*

In *Austria* very close ties exist between schools and the Junior Red Cross. Following a series of experimental seminars beginning in 1971, the Austrian Junior Red Cross has developed a system of teaching about the Red Cross and the Geneva Conventions as part of the teaching of history in secondary schools.

In order to make this system more widely known, the Junior Red Cross organized a seminar on this subject from 12 to 14 May. The 50 participants were history teachers from schools for the training of teachers or from secondary schools in all parts of Austria. It will be their responsibility to instruct their colleagues who are responsible for the same teaching in other schools.

The programme of the seminar included talks on such matters as international humanitarian law and a variety of practical demonstrations, including the audiovisual presentation of lessons given in schools.

The ICRC delegate, who had taken part earlier in most of the experimental seminars, gave a talk on the role and activity of the ICRC.

\* \* \*

The first Afro-Brazilian training course for leaders of the Junior Red Cross took place in *Brazil* from 9 to 14 June. About 15 delegates from Angola, Brazil, Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique, Sao Tomé and Príncipe took part. During the course, the ICRC delegate spoke about the ICRC and its activities and presented the fundamental elements and principles of international humanitarian law. He also gave a showing of the film "Pax", accompanied by its teaching guide, that has recently been issued by the Documentation and Dissemination Division of the ICRC and the Youth Bureau of the League.

### **Dissemination among National Societies**

*International Review*<sup>1</sup> has already referred to congresses organized by the *Belgian* Red Cross. We mention them again here only to say that the participants emphasized the need of creating within the National Society a service devoted specifically to the dissemination of international humanitarian law and a programme for dissemination.

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A delegate from the ICRC Documentation and Dissemination Division carried out a mission in *Lisbon* from 9 to 13 April at the invitation of the Portuguese Red Cross. He gave several talks, illustrated by films, to a large number of members of the Portuguese Red Cross, students and representatives of various ministries. He also gave two lectures at the institute for advanced military studies, one to the army and the other to the air force.

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A regional seminar on the dissemination of international humanitarian law took place at *Montevideo* from 30 May to 7 June, under the auspices of the Uruguayan Red Cross. The National Societies invited were those of the countries belonging to sub-region II as defined by the Inter-American Conference at Rio de Janeiro in June 1979. Representatives of the National Societies of Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay took part. The ICRC was also represented. Representatives of the armies, navies and air forces were present at all sessions.

<sup>1</sup> Issue of May-June 1980.

## Dissemination in medical circles

About 60 delegates, designated by ten European National Societies: Belgium, Bulgaria, Finland, France, the Federal Republic of Germany, Great Britain, the Netherlands, Portugal, Sweden and Switzerland, and representatives of the three Red Cross institutions in Geneva, the ICRC, League and the Henry Dunant Institute, attended a seminar in *Warsaw* from 10 to 15 November on international humanitarian law for Red Cross medical and paramedical personnel.

The seminar, organized jointly by the ICRC and the Polish Red Cross, was presided over by Dr. J. de Rougemont, member of the ICRC, and Prof. Bierzanek, of the Polish Red Cross. It was attended by doctors, nurses, social workers and jurists, all of whom had some knowledge of the Red Cross but had not studied international humanitarian law.

The subjects presented and discussed were based upon two major themes: international humanitarian law and its dissemination in medical circles (among military medical officers, in schools of medicine, nursing, etc.) and the medical actions of the Red Cross (as defined in theory in the Conventions and Protocols and as they are actually carried out in ICRC delegations, League delegations, National Societies, etc.).

The discussions which followed each paper presented gave abundant evidence that the meeting had created an awareness among the participants of the need to promote knowledge of the principles of the Red Cross and of international humanitarian law in medical circles.

The seminar also established a number of principles to guide medical personnel:

### *Essential principles*

- The principle of *humanity* requires that man shall be treated humanely under all circumstances. It constitutes the basis for all Red Cross action as it does for all medical action.
- The principle of *impartiality* requires that the necessary care be given to all persons, regardless of the side to which they belong. Only reasons of medical urgency determine priorities in the order of care.
- The principle of *neutrality* forbids medical personnel protected by the sign of the red cross or red crescent from taking part in hostilities. Caring for an enemy who is wounded or sick shall never be considered as interference in the conflict.

### *Operational principles*

- Emergency medical actions imply appropriate techniques, adapted to local conditions, so as to avoid leaving the population depended upon an excessively sophisticated medical practice when the emergency is over.
- Emergency medical actions for refugees must not give privileges to these victims in comparison to the native population.
- Emergency medical actions must in principle respect the cultural identities of those benefiting from the care.
- Doctors are required to care for all the wounded, both civilian and military. The doctor is responsible only for the care he gives and has no authority to determine the status or assignment of the patient after he has been cured.

### **Participation of Henry Dunant Institute**

The Henry Dunant Institute played an active role in dissemination activities during 1980.

It organized three introductory courses on the international activities of the Red Cross for Red Cross personnel and volunteers. The first of these, in French, held in Geneva from 28 May to 4 June, was attended by 34 participants from 25 National Societies; the second, in Spanish, took place in Madrid, from 25 November to 3 December, in co-operation with the Spanish Red Cross and was attended by 32 participants from 19 National Societies and 16 participants from provincial committees of the Spanish Red Cross; the third took place in Geneva, from 10 to 13 November, at the request of the Swiss Red Cross and was attended by 18 participants from the national and cantonal personnel of the Society.

The Institute organized or helped to organize various seminars on the Red Cross and international humanitarian law for persons not belonging to the Red Cross. One of these took place in Geneva from 16 to 22 June at the request of the Norwegian Red Cross for the benefit of journalists and members of the Norwegian Red Cross. Another, also in Geneva, took place from 24 September to 1 October for English-speaking army medical officers, on the initiative of the International Committee of Military Medicine and Pharmacy. The third seminar, from 27 November to 5 December, at Yaounde, Cameroon, in co-

operation with the Cameroon Institute for International Relations, was attended by 83 participants, including government officials, military leaders, teachers, students, etc., from 26 African countries.

The Institute also participated in a number of meetings organized by the League, the ICRC, various National Societies or several specialized organizations.

### **University Seminar at Florence**

In this summary of 1980 activities for the dissemination of international humanitarian law special attention must be given to the University Seminar at Florence organized along new and interesting lines.

From 26 to 29 November, the faculties of law of the Universities of Florence and Rome and the Florentine section of the Italian Red Cross organized an introductory seminar on international humanitarian law for teachers of international law and political science in Italian universities.

About forty young teachers, both men and women, from all parts of Italy—Florence, Rome, Milan, Bologna, Pisa, Catania, Bari, Turin, Perugia, etc.—worked for several days under the guidance of a distinguished group of Italian specialists in international humanitarian law. With the exceptions of General Pietro Verri and Judge Ugo Genesio, all the lecturers—Professors Barile, Condorelli, Badiali, Ferrari-Bravo, Ronzitti and Migliazza—had been members at one time or another of the Italian delegation to the Diplomatic Conference at Geneva from 1974 to 1977.

The outstanding membership of this group of lecturers was a guarantee of the high standard of the discussions. The participants acquired knowledge of the content of international humanitarian law, along with the difficulties, usually political, encountered in its enactment and implementation. For many of the participants, this seminar was their first contact with this particular branch of international law. The introduction to that branch aroused general interest and several of those taking part undertook, in one form or another, to develop the teaching of international humanitarian law in their faculties.

It is hoped that the plan and structure of the seminar "Florence 1980" will be repeated in the years to come, not only in other Italian cities but also in other countries, because the delay in this field of dissemination of knowledge of international humanitarian law since World War II is still too great.

### **Joint working group**

Mindful of Resolution No. VII of the Twenty-third International Red Cross Conference (Bucharest, 1977), the Executive Council of the League of Red Cross Societies, at its second session (October 1978), instructed the League Secretary General to establish, in consultation with the ICRC, a joint working group of experts to help and advise the Red Cross institutions in implementing the Programme of Action for the dissemination of international humanitarian law and of the principles and ideals of the Red Cross.

The working group on dissemination was accordingly constituted, its members consisting of experts from the Spanish Red Cross (Professor F. Murillo), the Finnish Red Cross (Mr. K. Warras), the Libyan Arab Red Crescent (Mr. A. Buhedma), the Malaysian Red Crescent (Mr. V. T. Nathan) and the Czechoslovak Red Cross (Professor G. Mencer), and representatives of the League, ICRC and Henry Dunant Institute.

At its first session on 26 April 1979, the working group elected Mr. K. Warras and Professor Mencer chairman and vice-chairman respectively, and adopted a system of annual rotation for the chairmanship and vice-chairmanship.

The members of the working group were invited, in the course of their meetings, to express their views on the various plans enumerated in the Programme of Action, to be executed by one or other of the three institutions, ICRC, League and Henry Dunant Institute, with the co-operation, in certain cases, of members of National Societies.

The joint working group will submit a report on its work to the Twenty-fourth International Red Cross Conference at Manila in November 1981.

### **Programme of dissemination for 1982-1985**

In 1978 the ICRC and the League adopted and sent to all National Societies a Red Cross Action Programme for the dissemination of knowledge of international humanitarian law and the principles of the Red Cross (1978-1981). It has since been considered appropriate to establish a second programme on the same subject for the period from 1982 to 1985. This programme, on the decision of the joint ICRC-League expert group on dissemination, was sent to all National Societies on 23 November with a circular letter asking them to convey their comments and suggestions to the ICRC and the League.

## BOOKS AND REVIEWS

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### ESSAYS ÜBER DAS ROTE KREUZ<sup>1</sup>

The book entitled "Essays on the Red Cross" contains ten studies and articles written in German at different times by prominent persons of the German Red Cross Society, several of whom are known to the readers of our review. These essays were gathered and published by Dr Walter Gruber, in honour of Dr W. Bargatzky, president of the Society, on his 70th birthday.

Among the contributions which are particularly relevant to the German Red Cross, some will be of interest to a wider audience: "Jean Henry Dunant, a Believer, an Apostle, a Prophet..." by Willy Heudtlass, the indefatigable researcher, whose article contains hitherto unpublished document on Dunant; "On the Resolutions", a study by Dr. K. Wagner on the resolutions of the International Red Cross Conferences; "German Contributions to the Development of the Red Cross", by Dr Walter Gruber, the editor of this book, who reveals a number of little-known and curious facts on the "early history" of the Red Cross, i.e. on the International Conferences of Berlin in 1869 and Karlsruhe in 1887. In quite another vein, there is also "The Red Cross is Worthy of Confidence" by Alfons Kirchner, memoirs of the work done for prisoners of war in the years following the Second World War.

This small book gives a conspectus of the multiple aspects of the work done by the Red Cross and of the enormous efforts which had and still are to be made every day if the movement is to fulfil its mission. The book is a mine of information on events and prominent persons who contributed to establishing the Red Cross in Germany. It is an eminently readable and extremely interesting collection of essays.

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<sup>1</sup> *Essays über das Rote Kreuz*, edited by Walter Gruber, Druckerei Hachenburg, Hachenburg, 1980, 126 pp.

PIETRO VERRI : DIRITTO PER LA PACE  
E DIRITTO NELLA GUERRA <sup>1</sup>

General Pietro Verri, who is already known to readers of *International Review of the Red Cross* for his Italian translation of the Geneva Protocols of 1977, has just published, under the auspices of the San Remo International Institute of Humanitarian Law, a magnificent book which represents a very considerable amount of work. This book is a selection of the most important legal texts drawn up over the past hundred and twenty years, and all of them deal with "Law for Peace and Law In War".

Most of the texts have been translated into Italian from their original language, either French or English, by General Pietro Verri and Dr. Ugo Genesio, Secretary General of the San Remo Institute. We are convinced that this major work will be of great use to the Italian-speaking public, for whom the original languages of international treaties are not immediately accessible, and that it will contribute to the wider dissemination of knowledge of international humanitarian law.

HOWARD S. LEVIE: PROTECTION OF WAR VICTIMS <sup>2</sup>

*Four volumes*

*International Review* presented in its January-February 1981 issue the first volume of a book by Howard S. Levie entitled *Protection of War Victims: Protocol I to the Geneva Conventions*. We should now like to draw our readers' attention to the fact that Volumes II and III have been published and that Volume IV has just come out, completing his most useful undertaking.

Volumes II, III and IV follow the same pattern as Volume I: for each article of Protocol I the author has gathered all relevant documents of the Diplomatic Conference. Moreover, the last three volumes contain references to the *Official Records* of the Conference (English pagination), which was impossible to do in Volume I.

Volume IV is supplemented by a table of all four volumes with, in parallel, the numbers of articles in the draft and final texts of the Protocol. An alphabetical index makes the book easier to consult.

B. Z.

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<sup>1</sup> Edizioni speciali della « Rassegna dell'Arma dei Carabinieri », Rome, 1980, 738 pp.

<sup>2</sup> Howard S. Levie, *Protection of War Victims: Protocol I to the Geneva Conventions*. Vol. I: XXX + 542 pp. Vol. II: XI + 545 pp. Vol. III: XI + 565 pp. Vol. IV: XIII + 535 pp. Oceana Publications, New York, 1979-1981 (price per volume: 45 dollars).

## LA SOCIÉTÉ GENEVOISE D'UTILITÉ PUBLIQUE BIRTHPLACE OF THE RED CROSS <sup>1</sup>

For the one-hundred-and-fiftieth anniversary of its foundation, the *Société genevoise d'utilité publique* has issued an attractive publication, in which the Society's history is related by Bernard Lescaze, with numerous reproductions of interesting documents.

In the pages of this lively little history, readers will learn of the Society's many useful undertakings and also of the ethical and philanthropical questions and the economic and social problems in which its members took particular interest. While the construction of low-rent dwellings, the welfare of prisoners, educational reforms, the campaign against intemperance, the founding of the *Société de natation et de sauvetage* were all enterprises designed to make the City and Republic of Geneva a better place to live in, other undertakings led the *Société genevoise d'utilité publique* into the sphere of international relations, when it set up a Commission to bring aid to war-wounded soldiers which very soon became the International Committee of the Red Cross.

It is this chapter which the readers of our Review will probably read with the greatest interest. Moreover, it is likely that many of our Genevese readers will recognize some of their forefathers among the people named in this history and will discover how a large number of institutions, which are still active today in their native city, saw the light of day.

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<sup>1</sup> *La Société genevoise d'utilité publique en son temps, 1828-1978. Contribution à l'histoire économique et sociale de Genève*, by Bernard Lescaze. Geneva 1978, 96 pp. *Société genevoise d'utilité publique*, case postale 349, 1211 - Geneva - 2.

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

ADOPTED 21 JUNE 1973

ART. 1. — *International Committee of the Red Cross*

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.

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

ART. 2. — *Legal Status*

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

ART. 3. — *Headquarters and Emblem*

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. — *Role*

1. The special role of the ICRC shall be:

- (a) to maintain the fundamental principles of the Red Cross as proclaimed by the XXth International Conference of the Red Cross;
- (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;
- (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 ensure the operation of the Central Information Agencies provided for in the Geneva Conventions;
- (f) to contribute, in view of such conflicts, to the preparation and development of medical personnel and medical equipment, in co-operation with the Red Cross organizations, the medical services of the armed forces, and other competent authorities;
- (g) 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;
- (h) to accept the mandates entrusted to it by the International Conferences of the Red Cross.

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

ART. 6 (first paragraph). — *Membership of the ICRC*

The ICRC shall co-opt its members from among Swiss citizens. It shall comprise fifteen to twenty-five members.

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

## ADDRESSES OF NATIONAL SOCIETIES

- AFGHANISTAN (Democratic Republic) — Afghan Red Crescent, Puli Artan, *Kabul*.
- PEOPLE'S SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA — Albanian Red Cross, 35, Rruga e Barrikadavet, *Tirana*.
- ALGERIA (Democratic and People's Republic) — Algerian Red Crescent Society, 15 bis, Boulevard Mohamed V, *Algiers*.
- ARGENTINA — Argentine Red Cross, H. Yrigoyen 2068, 1089 *Buenos Aires*.
- AUSTRALIA — Australian Red Cross, 206, Clarendon Street, *East Melbourne 3002*.
- AUSTRIA — Austrian Red Cross, 3 Gusshausstrasse, Postfach 39, *Vienna 4*.
- BAHAMAS — Bahamas Red Cross Society, P.O. Box N 91, *Nassau*.
- BAHRAIN — Bahrain Red Crescent Society, P.O. Box 882, *Manama*.
- BANGLADESH — Bangladesh Red Cross Society, 34, Bangabandhu Avenue, *Dacca 2*.
- PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BENIN — Red Cross of Benin, B.P. 1, *Porto Novo*.
- BELGIUM — Belgian Red Cross, 98 Chaussée de Vleurgat, 1050 *Brussels*.
- BOLIVIA — Bolivian Red Cross, Avenida Simón Bolívar, 1515, *La Paz*.
- BOTSWANA — Botswana Red Cross Society, Independence Avenue, P.O. Box 485, *Gaborone*.
- BRAZIL — Brazilian Red Cross, Praça Cruz Vermelha 10-12, *Rio de Janeiro*.
- BULGARIA — Bulgarian Red Cross, 1, Boul. Biruzov, *Sofia 27*.
- BURMA (Socialist Republic of the Union of) — Burma Red Cross, 42 Strand Road, Red Cross Building, *Rangoon*.
- BURUNDI — Red Cross Society of Burundi, rue du Marché 3, P.O. Box 324, *Bujumbura*.
- CAMEROON — Cameroon Red Cross Society, rue Henry-Dunant, P.O.B. 631, *Yaoundé*.
- CANADA — Canadian Red Cross, 95 Wellesley Street East, *Toronto, Ontario, M4Y 1H6*.
- CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC — Central African Red Cross, B.P. 1428, *Bangui*.
- CHILE — Chilean Red Cross, Avenida Santa María 0150, Correo 21, Casilla 246V., *Santiago*.
- CHINA (People's Republic) — Red Cross Society of China, 53 Kanmien Hutung, *Peking*.
- COLOMBIA — Colombian Red Cross, Carrera 7a, 34-65, Apartado nacional 1110, *Bogotá D.E.*
- CONGO, PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF THE — Croix-Rouge Congolaise, place de la Paix, *Brazzaville*.
- COSTA RICA — Costa Rican Red Cross, Calle 14, Avenida 8, Apartado 1025, *San José*.
- CUBA — Cuban Red Cross, Calle 23 201 esq. N. Vedado, *Havana*.
- CZECHOSLOVAKIA — Czechoslovak Red Cross, Thunovska 18, 118 04 *Prague 1*.
- DENMARK — Danish Red Cross, Dag Hammarskjöldsg. Allé 28, Postboks 2600, 2100 København Ø.
- DOMINICAN REPUBLIC — Dominican Red Cross, Apartado Postal 1293, *Santo Domingo*.
- ECUADOR — Ecuadorean Red Cross, Calle de la Cruz Roja y Avenida Colombia, 118, *Quito*.
- EGYPT (Arab Republic of) — Egyptian Red Crescent Society, 29, El-Galaa Street, *Cairo*.
- EL SALVADOR — El Salvador Red Cross, 3a Avenida Norte y 3a Calle Poniente, *San Salvador, C.A.*
- ETHIOPIA — Ethiopian Red Cross, Rass Desta Damtew Avenue, *Addis Ababa*.
- FIJI — Fiji Red Cross Society, 193 Rodwell Road. P.O. Box 569, *Suva*.
- FINLAND — Finnish Red Cross, Tehtaankatu 1 A, Box 168, 00141 *Helsinki 14/15*.
- FRANCE — French Red Cross, 17 rue Quentin Bauchart, F-75384 *Paris CEDEX 08*.
- GAMBIA — The Gambia Red Cross Society, P.O. Box 472, *Banjul*.
- GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC — German Red Cross in the German Democratic Republic, Kaitzerstrasse 2, DDR 801 *Dresden 1*.
- GERMANY, FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF — German Red Cross in the Federal Republic of Germany, Friedrich-Ebert-Allee 71, 5300, *Bonn 1*, Postfach (D.B.R.).
- GHANA — Ghana Red Cross, National Headquarters, Ministries Annex A3, P.O. Box 835, *Accra*.
- GREECE — Hellenic Red Cross, rue Lycavittou 1, *Athens 135*.
- GUATEMALA — Guatemalan Red Cross, 3<sup>a</sup> Calle 8-40, Zona 1, *Ciudad de Guatemala*.
- 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, 7a Calle, 1a y 2a Avenidas, *Comayagüela, D.M.*
- HUNGARY — Hungarian Red Cross, V. Arany János utca 31, *Budapest V*. Mail Add.: 1367 *Budapest 5*, Pf. 249.
- ICELAND — Icelandic Red Cross, Nóatúni 21, 105 *Reykjavik*.
- INDIA — Indian Red Cross, 1 Red Cross Road, *New Delhi 110001*.
- INDONESIA — Indonesian Red Cross, Jalan Abdul Muis 66, P.O. Box 2009, *Djakarta*.
- IRAN — Iranian Red Crescent, Avenue Ostad Nejatollahi, Carrefour Ayatollah Taleghani, *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, 1-3 Shiba-Daimon 1-chome, Minato-Ku, *Tokyo 105*.
- JORDAN — Jordan National Red Crescent Society, P.O. Box 10 001, *Amman*.
- KENYA — Kenya Red Cross Society, St. John's Gate, P.O. Box 40712, *Nairobi*.
- KOREA, DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF — Red Cross Society of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, *Pyongyang*.
- KOREA, REPUBLIC OF — The Republic of Korea National Red Cross, 32-3Ka Nam San-Dong, *Seoul*.
- KUWAIT — Kuwait Red Crescent Society, P.O. Box 1350, *Kuwait*.
- LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC — Lao Red Cross, P.B. 650, *Vientiane*.
- LEBANON — Lebanese Red Cross, rue Spears, *Beirut*.
- LESOTHO — Lesotho Red Cross Society, P.O. Box 366, *Maseru*.

- LIBERIA** — Liberian National Red Cross, National Headquarters, 107 Lynch Street, P.O. Box 226, *Monrovia*.
- LIBYAN ARAB JAMAHIRIYA** — Libyan Arab Red Crescent, P.O. Box 541, *Benghazi*.
- LIECHTENSTEIN** — Liechtenstein Red Cross, *Vaduz*.
- LUXEMBOURG** — Luxembourg Red Cross, Parc de la Ville, C.P. 404, *Luxembourg*.
- MALAGASY REPUBLIC** — Red Cross Society of the Malagasy Republic, rue Patrice Lumumba, *Antananarivo*.
- MALAWI** — Malawi Red Cross, Hall Road, *Blantyre* (P.O. Box 30080, Chichiri, *Blantyre* 3).
- MALAYSIA** — Malaysian Red Crescent Society, JKR 2358, Jalan Tun Ismail, *Kuala Lumpur* 11-02.
- MALI** — Mali Red Cross, B.P. 280, *Bamako*.
- MAURITANIA** — Mauritanian Red Crescent Society, B.P. 344, Avenue Gamal Abdel Nasser, *Nouakchott*.
- MAURITIUS** — Mauritius Red Cross, Ste Thérèse Street, *Curepipe*.
- MEXICO** — Mexican Red Cross, Avenida Ejército Nacional n° 1032, *México 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, B.P. 189, *Rabat*.
- NEPAL** — Nepal Red Cross Society, Tahachal, P.B. 217, *Kathmandu*.
- NETHERLANDS** — Netherlands Red Cross, 27 Prinsessegracht, *The Hague*.
- NEW ZEALAND** — New Zealand Red Cross, Red Cross House, 14 Hill Street, *Wellington 1*. (P.O. Box 12-140, *Wellington North*.)
- NICARAGUA** — Nicaragua Red Cross, D.N. Apartado 3279, *Managua*.
- NIGER** — Red Cross Society of Niger, B.P. 386, *Niamey*.
- NIGERIA** — Nigerian Red Cross Society, Eko Aketa Close, off St. Gregory Rd., P.O. Box 764, *Lagos*.
- NORWAY** — Norwegian Red Cross, Drammensveien 20 A, *Oslo 2*, Mail add.: *Postboks 2338, Solli, Oslo 2*.
- PAKISTAN** — Pakistan Red Crescent Society, National Headquarters, 169, Sarwar Road, *Rawalpindi*.
- PAPUA NEW GUINEA** — Red Cross of Papua New Guinea, P.O. Box 6545, *Boroko*.
- PANAMA** — Panamanian Red Cross, Apartado Postal 668, Zona 1, *Panamá*.
- PARAGUAY** — Paraguayan Red Cross, Brasil 216, *Asunción*.
- PERU** — Peruvian Red Cross, Jirón Chancay 881, *Lima*.
- PHILIPPINES** — Philippine National Red Cross, 860 United Nations Avenue, P.O.B. 280, *Manila D 2803*.
- POLAND** — Polish Red Cross, Mokotowska 14, *Warsaw*.
- PORTUGAL** — Portuguese Red Cross, Jardim 9 Abril, 1 a 5, *Lisbon 3*.
- ROMANIA** — Red Cross of the Socialist Republic of Romania, Strada Biserica Amzei 29, *Bucarest*.
- SAN MARINO** — San Marino Red Cross, Palais gouvernemental, *San Marino*.
- SAUDI ARABIA** — Saudi Arabian Red Crescent, *Riyadh*.
- SENEGAL** — Senegalese Red Cross Society, Bd Franklin-Roosevelt, P.O.B. 299, *Dakar*.
- SIERRA LEONE** — Sierra Leone Red Cross Society, 6A Liverpool Street, P.O.B. 427, *Freetown*.
- SINGAPORE** — Singapore Red Cross Society, 15 Penang Lane, *Singapore 0923*.
- SOMALIA (DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC)** — Somali Red Crescent Society, P.O. Box 937, *Mogadishu*.
- SOUTH AFRICA** — South African Red Cross, Cor. Kruis & Market Streets, P.O.B. 8726, *Johannesburg 2001*.
- SPAIN** — Spanish Red Cross, Eduardo Dato 16, *Madrid 10*.
- SRI LANKA (Dem. Soc. Rep. of)** — Sri Lanka Red Cross Society, 106 Dharmapala Mawatha, *Colombo 7*.
- SUDAN** — Sudanese Red Crescent, P.O. Box 235, *Khartoum*.
- SWAZILAND** — Baphalali Swaziland Red Cross Society, P.O. Box 377, *Mbabane*.
- SWEDEN** — Swedish Red Cross, Fack, S-104 40 *Stockholm 14*.
- SWITZERLAND** — Swiss Red Cross, Rainmattstr. 10, B.P. 2699, *3001 Berne*.
- SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC** — Syrian Red Crescent, Bd Mahdi Ben Barake, *Damascus*.
- TANZANIA** — Tanzania Red Cross Society, Upanga Road, P.O.B. 1133, *Dar es Salaam*.
- THAILAND** — Thai Red Cross Society, Paribatra Building, Chulalongkorn Memorial Hospital, *Bangkok*.
- TOGO** — Togolese Red Cross Society, 51 rue Boko Soga, P.O. Box 655, *Lomé*.
- TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO** — Trinidad and Tobago Red Cross Society, Wrightson Road West, P.O. Box 357, *Port of Spain, Trinidad, West Indies*.
- TUNISIA** — Tunisian Red Crescent, 19 rue d'Angleterre, *Tunis*.
- TURKEY** — Turkish Red Crescent, Yenisehir, *Ankara*.
- UGANDA** — Uganda Red Cross, Nabunya Road, P.O. Box 494, *Kampala*.
- UNITED KINGDOM** — British Red Cross, 9 Grosvenor Crescent, *London, SW1X 7EJ*.
- 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, D.C. 20006*.
- U.S.S.R.** — Alliance of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, I. Tcheremushkinskii proezd 5, *Moscow 117036*.
- VENEZUELA** — Venezuelan Red Cross, Avenida Andrés Bello No. 4, Apart. 3185, *Caracas*.
- VIET NAM, SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF** — Red Cross of Viet Nam, 68 rue Bà-Triệu, *Hanoi*.
- YUGOSLAVIA** — Red Cross of Yugoslavia, Simina ulica broj 19, *Belgrade*.
- REPUBLIC OF ZAIRE** — Red Cross of the Republic of Zaire, 41 av. de la Justice, B.P. 1712, *Kinshasa*.
- ZAMBIA** — Zambia Red Cross, P.O. Box R.W.1, 2837 Brentwood Drive, *Lusaka*.