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# **international review of the red cross**



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# INTERNATIONAL REVIEW OF THE RED CROSS

OCTOBER 1971 - No. 127

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**GERMAN**

Das Verbot der Folter (I) — Das Internationale Komitee in Lateinamerika.

**INTERNATIONAL  
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REAFFIRMATION AND DEVELOPMENT  
OF INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW  
APPLICABLE IN ARMED CONFLICTS

**CONFERENCE OF GOVERNMENT EXPERTS**

*For the Conference of Government Experts on the Reaffirmation and Development of International Humanitarian Law Applicable in Armed Conflicts, which was held in Geneva from 24 May to 12 June 1971,<sup>1</sup> the ICRC had compiled copious documentary material comprising eight volumes, namely:*

*I—Introduction; II—Measures Intended to Reinforce the Implementation of the Existing Law; III—Protection of the Civilian Population against Dangers of Hostilities; IV—Rules Relative to Behaviour of Combatants; V—Protection of Victims of Non-International Armed Conflicts; VI—Rules Applicable in Guerrilla Warfare; VII—Protection of the Wounded and Sick; VIII—Annexes.*

*The ICRC is today publishing a report on the work of the Conference.<sup>2</sup> We quote below, by way of example, some extracts from the report on the work of Commissions I and II. Next month we shall quote from the report on the work of Commissions III and IV. We begin with the "Introduction", which brings out the importance of the meeting and the spirit in which it was held, and follow this with the major part of the commentary on the general discussion.*

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<sup>1</sup> See *International Review*, June and July 1971.

<sup>2</sup> *Report on the Work of the Conference*, ICRC, Geneva, 1971, 121 pp.

## INTRODUCTION

In September 1969, at Istanbul, the XXIst International Conference of the Red Cross unanimously adopted Resolution No. XIII entitled " Reaffirmation and Development of the Laws and Customs Applicable in Armed Conflicts ". In that resolution, the Conference requested the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to pursue actively its efforts with a view to proposing, as soon as possible, concrete rules which would supplement humanitarian law in force. It also urged the ICRC to invite government experts to meet for consultation with the ICRC on those proposals.

On the basis of that resolution and in order to be able subsequently to put forward proposals to all governments, the ICRC decided to convene the " Conference of Government Experts on the Reaffirmation and Development of International Humanitarian Law Applicable in Armed Conflicts ", which was held from 24 May to 11 June 1971 in Geneva.

Consistent with the same resolution, which advocated the meeting of government experts who were representative of the main legal and social systems in the world, and bearing in mind the active interest displayed by many governments for Red Cross efforts in that field, the ICRC invited some forty governments to delegate experts to the Conference. A few of them having decided not to participate, the invitation was extended to several other governments which had shown special interest in the meeting. Finally, almost 200 experts from 41 States were gathered in Geneva.

In its invitation of 22 October 1970, the ICRC gave a provisional list of matters to be submitted to the Conference.

In the course of the first few months of 1971, the ICRC sent the governments invited the documentary material it had drawn up on the basis, in particular, of the opinions gathered during private consultations with some fifty experts throughout the world. Consisting of the eight *Documents* listed above and which covered more than 800 pages in each of the Conference's three working languages (French, English and Spanish), that material contained *inter alia* draft rules in various stages of development and accompanied by

## CONFERENCE OF GOVERNMENT EXPERTS

extensive comments on the problems to be dealt with and on the opinions of persons consulted. The ICRC added other documents, particularly the report on the work of the Conference of Red Cross Experts which met in The Hague from 1 to 6 March 1971, with the active assistance of the Netherlands Red Cross, to give National Red Cross Societies the opportunity to make known their views on the main problems submitted to the government experts.

The ICRC also sent the governments invited two reports by the UN Secretary-General on Respect for Human Rights in Time of Armed Conflicts, and the records of relevant proceedings of the UN General Assembly which, in its resolution 2677 (XXV), asked the Secretary-General to transmit those documents to the ICRC for submission to the Conference of Government Experts.

When it sent the documentary material to the governments invited, on 19 March 1971, the ICRC proposed that the Conference set up three commissions to meet simultaneously. It also proposed a provisional agenda sharing the matters for discussion among the commissions.

At the beginning of its work, the Conference adopted the rules of procedure proposed by the ICRC. Those rules specified, *inter alia*, that experts would express personal opinions not binding on the governments which had appointed them, and that the Conference would reach no decisions and pass no resolutions. In accordance with the same rules, the Conference elected its own and each commission's officers.

After two days of general discussion, the Conference split into four commissions—a fourth having been considered necessary—three of which met simultaneously to consider the subjects which had been assigned to them. The last two days were devoted to the adoption of commission reports and to a general discussion in the course of which the Conference considered, among other things, the action to be taken to follow up its work.

Apart from the documents already mentioned, this report consists in the main of those drawn up by the four commissions as amended by the Conference. The ICRC has added an analysis of its own of the plenary sessions with which the Conference began and ended.

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\* \* \*

The International Committee of the Red Cross is gratified that governments replied so favourably to its appeal by delegating numerous and highly qualified experts to Geneva. It wishes to convey to them here its profound gratitude.

After three weeks of discussions, conducted in the best team spirit and without a single note of discord, experts were almost unanimous in desiring a second Conference with a broader attendance in the near future. Indeed, although in general the results were important, the work was far from uniformly advanced in every field. Some fully worked out draft treaty provisions were produced, but some subjects were not even broached.

The International Committee of the Red Cross was therefore requested to draw up new drafts, as complete and concrete as possible. It intends to do so with a view to submitting them to governments in good time for the second Conference which it is already preparing to organize.

### GENERAL DISCUSSION DURING INITIAL PLENARY MEETINGS

#### *a) Purpose of the Conference*

11. The experts, as a whole, considered that care should be taken not to raise the question of the revision of the Geneva Conventions of 1949, which would be weakened thereby, but rather to reaffirm them, for they still constituted the basis for all future developments. It was therefore necessary to draw up additional texts in those fields where the 1949 Geneva Conventions had proved inadequate before the new requirements of humanity. The representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations recommended that the realities of contemporary armed conflicts, their nature, their methods of combat and the struggle carried on by resistance movements should be more fully taken into account. As to the method to be adopted, he advocated that the text of the Geneva Conventions of 1949 should remain untouched, that additions and clarifications

## CONFERENCE OF GOVERNMENT EXPERTS

should be provided, and that the imperfections that might be noted in the light of present-day armed conflicts should be remedied.

12. In the opinion of several experts, who pointed out the importance of maintaining and consolidating international peace in conformity with the principles and aims of the United Nations, it was in that perspective that the development and reaffirmation of international humanitarian law in armed conflicts should be imagined. In this connection, emphasis was laid on Article 2 (4) of the United Nations Charter, which prohibits the threat or use of force. One of the experts pointed out that it was paradoxical and saddening to find that, bearing this article of the Charter in mind, it was necessary to deal with the study of the law of armed conflicts; passing in review all the past endeavours made internationally since 1907, he found that the legal instruments devised so far had not eliminated armed conflicts but had only limited their ills. He added that this limitation still held good but that the basic aim was to change world society. Other experts submitted that humanitarian concern should be directed towards the suppression of weapons and the elimination of war. One of the experts, observing that peace was the surest guarantee for the protection of human rights, stressed the necessity for all States to conclude regional or bilateral agreements in this respect.

13. A large number of experts emphasized that the work of the Conference should be carried out with the requisite realistic approach. Attention was drawn to the fact that it would be necessary to prepare texts that could be accepted by governments and that, consequently, the rules to be formulated should be realistic and applicable. One of the experts, stressing that the envisaged development should be reasonably acceptable, considered that the ICRC should study which were the rules that had been best or least respected, and what were the reasons for that. Emphasis was laid on the indispensable harmonization to be created between "the necessities of war" and "the requirements of humanity", as well as on the necessary balance between idealism and realities.

14. Several experts urged that the rules to be elaborated had to be extremely clear and as simple as possible.

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15. Some experts declared that, during the current discussions, the principle of State sovereignty and non-intervention in the domestic affairs of States, in conformity with Art. 2 (7) of the United Nations Charter, should not be lost sight of. It was considered that the conclusions adopted by the Conference should take these principles into account, and that it was in the framework of international law, deriving from the Charter, that the envisaged developments should be imagined. One of the experts remarked that the principle of non-intervention in the domestic affairs of States had just been reaffirmed by the Declaration relative to the principles of international law concerning friendly relations and co-operation among States, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly at its twenty-fifth session.

*b) Relations and co-operation between the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the International Committee of the Red Cross*

16. Several experts expressed satisfaction with the close and positive collaboration established between the United Nations and the ICRC concerning the different problems currently submitted to the Conference. They hoped that this efficacious co-operation would continue. One of the experts said that these two organizations complemented each other in the work accomplished in this field. Another expert, who held that co-operation between the United Nations and the ICRC was of fundamental importance, considered that certain matters should be settled by the United Nations and other matters outside that organization.

17. Resolution 2677 (XXV) on " Respect for Human Rights in Armed Conflicts ", adopted by the United Nations General Assembly at its twenty-fifth session, which emphasized " the importance of continued close collaboration between the United Nations and the International Committee of the Red Cross ", was mentioned. It was hoped that positive conclusions reached at the present Conference would be submitted to the General Assembly at its twenty-sixth session.

18. Several experts praised the reports presented by the Secretary-General of the United Nations on " Respect for Human Rights

## CONFERENCE OF GOVERNMENT EXPERTS

in Armed Conflicts" (A/7720, dated 20 November 1969, and A/8052, dated 18 September 1970) as well as the documentary material presented by the ICRC to the Conference (Documents I to VIII).

19. The representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations stated that his presence at the Conference was a further sign of the interest shown by the Secretary-General in the work of the ICRC in the field of humanitarian law and of his wish for fruitful collaboration in the attainment of the numerous objectives which the Red Cross had in common with the United Nations. He drew the Conference's attention to resolution 2677 (XXV) adopted in December 1970 by the General Assembly; this resolution requested the Secretary-General to transmit his two reports on respect for human rights in armed conflicts (A/7720 and A/8052) to the ICRC, together with a number of other documents, for consideration by the Conference of government experts, and to report to the General Assembly at its twenty-sixth session on the results of the present Conference. The General Assembly had been informed at its twenty-fifth session of the ICRC's intention to convene a conference of government experts and of its hope that the United Nations, before pursuing its own work in this field, would wait until the results of the Conference were made known. The General Assembly had concurred in the ICRC view-point and had expressed the hope that the Conference would make specific recommendations for consideration by governments. The representative of the Secretary-General hoped that the results of the work here undertaken would be as specific as possible and recalled that resolution 2677 (XXV) contained the General Assembly's decision to consider this question again, in all its aspects, at its twenty-sixth session. He indicated that the keen interest shown by the United Nations in these problems went back to the International Conference on Human Rights, held in Teheran in 1968, and mentioned resolution XXIII adopted by that Conference. The Secretary-General's representative then went on to give the historical background of United Nations activities in that sphere since that date, and mentioned, in particular, the work undertaken and the resolutions adopted by the General Assembly at the twenty-third, twenty-fourth and twenty-fifth sessions. He spoke in detail of the five resolutions adopted in this respect by the General

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Assembly at its twenty-fifth session [resolutions 2673 (XXV) to 2677 (XXV)]. He thought that all these various questions taken together bore an urgent character and that their consideration should be speeded up. The General Assembly should be furnished with relevant subject-matter and given the opportunity to express its views on the appropriate specific measures that should be taken.

### *c) Role of the Red Cross*

20. All the experts who spoke congratulated the ICRC on the initiative it had taken to convene the present Conference and expressed their thanks for the considerable amount of documentary material which it had prepared and which constituted a sound basis for discussion. Several experts voiced their determination to cooperate with the ICRC in this sphere. Hopes were also expressed that the ICRC would receive certain guidelines for continuing its work.

### **SPECIFIC PROBLEMS DISCUSSED IN THE GENERAL DEBATE <sup>1</sup>**

21. Some experts held the view that it would be expedient no longer to distinguish, like the common Articles 2 and 3 of the four 1949 Geneva Conventions, between international and non-international armed conflicts. They considered that that distinction was no longer valid as most conflicts had changed in type, and they referred to the UN General Assembly resolution 2675 (XXV) on "Basic Principles for the Protection of Civilian Populations in Armed Conflicts", which contained provisions applicable to armed conflicts as a whole. One expert stated that the long-standing distinction was not practicable or realistic, as the concept of non-international armed conflict was completely changed by foreign assistance to Parties in conflict. He felt that the requirements of the Geneva Conventions relative to international armed conflicts

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<sup>1</sup> During the plenary sessions, experts made observations and suggestions on which they later elaborated in the Commissions. This paper therefore deals with only the preliminary remarks of a general nature on each of the subjects for discussion.

## CONFERENCE OF GOVERNMENT EXPERTS

should equally apply to non-international armed conflicts. The UN Secretary-General's representative drew attention to the fact that United Nations instruments on human rights were applicable in time both of peace and of armed conflict and that some of the provisions in the International Covenants on Human Rights were such from which derogations would not be permitted even in time of war.

22. Other experts, by contrast, were in favour of the distinction between international and non-international conflicts.

23. According to some experts, aggression should be defined and a distinction drawn between the victim of aggression and the aggressor. That definition and that distinction were, in their view, important for the achievement of the developments it was desired to bring about. One expert, however, stressed the necessary equality of application of international humanitarian law rules to all Parties to an armed conflict.

24. Concerning Document II entitled "Measures intended to reinforce the implementation of the existing law", a number of experts stated that they attached capital importance to the examination of that question by a Commission. Some affirmed that the strict observance of existing rules was a primary and fundamental necessity. The view was held that it was essential to provide the means to supervise the application of the rules and it was hoped that effective measures of supervision would be taken. It was pointed out that improvements in law were effective only if implementation were ensured and that this depended particularly on the dissemination of knowledge of the principles and on the existence of an impartial international supervision. One expert stated that the question of reservations in respect of the humanitarian Conventions should be added to the problems raised in Document II; according to him the possibility of making such reservations should be limited, if not precluded. A number of preliminary remarks were put forward concerning the supervision of the proper observance of the law, a point which was later examined closely by Commission IV. It was said that progressive development of international humanitarian law should be hoped for but that it might not be achieved if measures

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of effective supervision were not provided. It was felt that the UN and the ICRC could carry out complementary activities in that field. However, one expert pointed out that the United Nations was a political body and that its impartiality could therefore be called in question. Some recommended that consideration be given to extending the ICRC's role and the work of National Red Cross Societies in this respect. Others stated that rather than urge the setting up of new international organizations for the application of humanitarian law, existing institutions, particularly the ICRC, should be reinforced. One expert expressed doubt on the advisability of setting up a permanent fact-finding body, believing that an *ad hoc* body should be set up when necessary. The UN Secretary-General's representative underlined, in this connection, the importance of an international presence in areas where conflict occurred and he stated that Document II did not exactly express either the responsibilities of the United Nations and its agencies under the Charter or the United Nations standpoint. Referring to the desirability of separating the humanitarian from the political, he averred that it was untrue to say, as had been said by some, that United Nations undertakings were always political. The United Nations could, indeed, adopt forms of organization quite aloof from any political considerations, as was proved by the existence of UNICEF, the HCR, UNRWA, the World Food Programme, and so forth. He felt it was perfectly possible to set up within the United Nations a purely humanitarian and autonomous institution. Recognizing that the ICRC had a universal mission, he believed that the point to which the ICRC could go and wished to go, should be further specified before concluding whether existing international institutions were suitable or unsuitable.

25. Preliminary remarks were made on Document III ("Protection of the civilian population against dangers of hostilities") and on the questions to be discussed by Commission III. The main opinions expressed were the following: the scope of the subject and the developments which were necessary made it desirable to draw up an additional protocol; the reinforcement of protection for possible victims, and particularly the civilian population, was essential in view of the way in which weapons had developed; there should

## CONFERENCE OF GOVERNMENT EXPERTS

be as extensive a defence as possible, and even complete immunity, for the civilian population; the civilian population as a whole should be protected, without special rules and discrimination in favour of women and children which would complicate regulations in which simplicity was of the essence; whatever the nature of a conflict, the civilian population's right to protection should be the same; protection of the civilian population did not mean protection solely of human life but also of the resources necessary for human existence, so that protection of property essential for survival should not be omitted, and starvation as a weapon should be forbidden; in view of the danger of air raids killing entire populations over wide areas, and considering the inadequacy of relevant rules, air warfare should be subject to regulations; protection could be developed for civilian populations living in occupied territories. It was pointed out that public opinion was manifestly in favour of protection for journalists on dangerous missions <sup>1</sup>.

26. Several experts, taking the view that it was important to examine the questions raised in Document IV (" Rules relative to behaviour of combatants ") considered that developments were necessary in that field and they put forward various opinions, namely: the rules contained in the Regulations annexed to the Fourth Hague Convention of 1907, now considered as norms of customary law, should be worded in a manner more appropriate to modern times; the combatant status concept needed rethinking in order to cover guerrilleros, and to provide at least minimum rules for the benefit of those other persons not having that status; the confusion between regular and irregular armed forces was one of the basic problems requiring study; the inequality of weapons available to combatants could affect their behaviour, and the definition of combatants varied depending on the wars in which they were engaged and the methods used; the concept of combatants should be clearly defined; the distinction between combatants and non-combatants was in jeopardy and it was important to stress the fact that the sick, expectant mothers and children were non-com-

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<sup>1</sup> This subject was to be examined by Commission III on the basis of documents submitted by the UN Human Rights Commission (cf. Conference Rules of Procedure, Art. 2 (d)).

## CONFERENCE OF GOVERNMENT EXPERTS

batants to which the 1949 Geneva Conventions were still fully applicable; prisoner of war status should not be granted to combatants using illicit methods.

27. Several experts underlined that the questions raised in Document V ("Protection of victims of non-international armed conflicts") carry today great importance. The main opinions were: non-international or semi-international armed conflicts had been numerous since the conclusion of the 1949 Geneva Conventions and it appeared necessary to develop the law because the Conventions did not always cover new situations; although the rules on international armed conflicts were detailed, those relating to non-international armed conflicts, which were on the increase, had proved clearly inadequate and the target was to render the greatest number of rules applicable to those conflicts in view of the fact that victims needed protection whatever the nature of a conflict; consistent with resolution XVII of the twenty-first International Conference of the Red Cross, Article 3, common to the four 1949 Geneva Conventions, should be made more precise or supplemented; an additional protocol to the common Article 3 should be drawn up; the question of the internationalization of non-international armed conflicts should be examined; such conflicts should be clearly defined; the problem should be studied both from the point of view of protection and from that of the conduct of hostilities; steps should be taken to ensure the acceptance of ICRC intervention as a neutral intermediary in non-international armed conflicts. In addition, some experts firmly stressed that national sovereignty and the principle of non-interference in internal affairs of States must be respected. It was stated that internal disturbances and internal tensions should not be dealt with by the Conference: one expert took the view that such situations could not be subject to international regulations and another that they were not within the competence of the Conference; in contrast, one expert considered that Article 3 contained within its provisions a minimum of rules applicable to such situations. . .

**PROTOCOL**

**concerning the Protection of the Wounded and Sick,  
to the Fourth Geneva Convention of August 12, 1949,  
relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons  
in Time of War <sup>1</sup>**

PREAMBLE

The Parties, while solemnly reaffirming the provisions of the Fourth Geneva Convention of August 12, 1949, relative to the protection of civilian persons in time of war, have agreed to the following additional provisions.

*Art. 1: Application of the Protocol*

The provisions of this Protocol shall apply to all cases specified in article 2 of the aforesaid Fourth Convention and, with the exception of articles 8 and 10, paragraph 3 and 4 of this Protocol, to the whole of the populations of the countries in conflict.

*Art. 2: Terms*

In this Protocol the expression:

- a) " Protected Person " means all those persons specified as protected persons in the four Geneva Conventions.
- b) " Medical Establishments and Units " means hospitals and other fixed medical establishments, medical and pharmaceutical stores of fixed medical establishments, mobile medical units, blood transfusion centres and other installations designed for medical purposes.
- c) " Medical Transportation " means transportation of wounded, sick, infirm, maternity cases, medical personnel, medical equipment and supplies by ambulances or by any other means of transportation excluding aircraft transportation.
- d) " Medical Personnel " means persons regularly and solely engaged in the operation and administration of medical establishments and units, including the personnel engaged in the search for, removal and transporting of and caring for wounded and sick, the infirm and maternity cases.
- e) " Distinctive Emblem " means the distinctive emblem of the red cross (red crescent, red lion and sun) on a white background.

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<sup>1</sup> The text of the Protocol is given as approved by the Conference of Experts.

## CONFERENCE OF GOVERNMENT EXPERTS

### *Art. 3: Protection and care*

All wounded and sick, whether non-combatants or combatants rendered *hors de combat*, as well as the infirm, expectant mothers and maternity cases, shall be the object of special protection and respect.

In all circumstances these persons shall be treated humanely and shall receive medical care and attention necessitated by their condition with the least possible delay, and without any adverse distinction or discrimination founded on race, colour, caste, nationality, religion, political opinion, sex, birth, wealth or any other similar criteria.

### *Art. 4: Respect for persons*

Any unjustified act or omission which endangers the health or physical or mental well-being of any protected person is prohibited.

Consequently, all experiments on and treatment of protected persons, including removal or transplant of organs, not intended to provide them with medical relief are prohibited. This prohibition applies even if the protected persons concerned have given consent to such experiments.

### *Art. 5: Civilian medical establishments and units*

Civilian medical establishments and units may in no circumstances be attacked, but shall at all times be respected and protected by the Parties to the conflict.

The Parties to a conflict shall provide these medical establishments and units with certificates identifying them for the purposes of this Protocol.

With authorization from the State, medical establishments and units shall be marked by means of the distinctive emblem.

In order to obviate the possibility of any hostile action, Parties to the conflict shall as far as military considerations permit take the necessary steps to make known the location of medical establishments and units and mark them with the aforesaid distinctive emblem in such manner as to be clearly visible to the adverse forces.

The responsible authorities shall ensure that the said medical establishments and units are, as far as possible, situated in such a manner that attacks against military objectives cannot imperil their safety.

### *Art. 6: Discontinuance of protection of civilian medical establishments and units*

The protection to which civilian medical establishments and units are entitled shall not cease unless they are used to commit, outside their humanitarian duties, acts harmful to the enemy. Protection may, however, cease only after due warning has been given, naming, in all appropriate cases, a reasonable time-limit, and after such warning has remained unheeded.

The fact that sick or wounded members of the armed forces are nursed in these medical establishments and units, or the presence of

## CONFERENCE OF GOVERNMENT EXPERTS

small arms and ammunition taken from such combatants which have not yet been handed to the proper service, shall not be considered to be acts harmful to the enemy.

### *Art. 7: Civilian medical transportation*

Ambulances and other vehicles used for medical transportation and serving civilian medical establishments and units shall be respected and protected at all times. They shall bear a certificate from the competent authority testifying to their medical nature.

Other means of transport used in isolation or in convoy, whether on land or on waterways, temporarily assigned for medical transportation, shall be respected and protected while being used for the aforesaid purpose.

With the consent of the competent authority, all vehicles and means of transportation mentioned above shall be provided with the distinctive emblem. However, the means of transportation mentioned in paragraph 2 above may display the distinctive emblem only while performing their humanitarian mission.

The provisions of article 6 shall also be applicable to medical transportation.

### *Art. 8: Requisition*

The right of the Occupying Power to requisition civilian medical establishments and units, their movable and immovable assets as well as the services of their medical personnel, shall not be exercised except temporarily and only when there is urgent necessity for the care of protected persons and then on condition that suitable arrangements are made in due time for the care and treatment of the patients and for the needs of the civilian population for hospital accommodation.

The material and stores of medical establishments and units cannot be requisitioned so long as they are necessary for the needs of the civilian population.

### *Art. 9: Civilian medical personnel*

Civilian medical personnel duly recognized or authorized by the State and regularly and solely engaged in the operation and administration of medical establishments and units and the duly authorized personnel of the National Red Cross Societies employed in the medical treatment of the protected persons, as well as the personnel engaged in the search for, removal and transporting of and caring for wounded and sick, the infirm and maternity cases, shall be respected and protected.

The aforesaid medical personnel shall be recognizable by means of an identity card bearing the photograph of the holder and embossed with the stamp of the responsible authority, and also by means of a stamped armband which they shall wear on the left arm while carrying

## CONFERENCE OF GOVERNMENT EXPERTS

out their duties. This armband shall be issued by the State and shall bear the distinctive emblem.

As far as possible, every assistance shall be given to the aforesaid personnel in order that they may carry out their humanitarian mission to the best of their ability. In particular they shall be permitted access to all places where their services may be required, subject to such supervisory and safety measures as may be considered necessary by the Parties to the conflict.

If the aforesaid personnel fall into the hands of the adverse party they shall be given all facilities necessary for the performance of their mission. In no circumstances shall they be compelled or required to perform any work outside their medical duties.

The management of each medical establishment and unit shall at all times hold at the disposal of the competent national or occupying authorities an up-to-date list of such personnel.

### *Art. 10: Protection in the discharge of medical duties*

In no circumstances shall the exercise of medical activities, consistent with professional rules, be considered an offence, no matter who the beneficiary may be.

In no circumstances shall medical personnel be compelled by any authority to violate any provision of the Geneva Conventions of August 12, 1949 for the protection of war victims, or of this Protocol.

No medical personnel shall be required to perform acts or do work which violates professional rules.

No medical personnel shall be compelled to inform an occupation authority of the wounded and sick under their care, unless failure to do so would be contrary to the regulations concerning the notification of communicable diseases.

### *Art. 11: The role of the population*

The civilian and military authorities shall permit the inhabitants and relief societies, even in invaded or occupied areas, spontaneously to collect and care for wounded or sick of whatever nationality.

The civilian population shall respect these wounded and sick, and in particular abstain from offering them violence.

No one may ever be molested or convicted for having nursed or cared for military or civilian wounded or sick.

### *Art. 12: Use of the distinctive emblem*

The Parties shall take all necessary measures to ensure the proper use of the distinctive emblem and to prevent and repress any misuse thereof.

\* \* \*

COMMISSION II

**DEFINITION OF NON-INTERNATIONAL  
ARMED CONFLICTS**

129. This subject was introduced by an ICRC representative, who stressed that Article 3 of the prevailing law did not define non-international armed conflict. Governments were therefore left considerable discretion in respect of events occurring on their territory. However, there could be no ground for the misinterpretation of that article: hostilities between armed forces within a State constituted non-international armed conflict. Yet, in several non-international armed conflicts, one party or the other had contested that the conflict came within the meaning of Article 3.

130. In order to improve the situation, by limiting to a reasonable extent the State's right to decide, the ICRC representative considered that the concept of non-international armed conflict should be made more precise by a non-exhaustive list of examples (*inter alia*) of situations in which the existence of non-international armed conflict could not be disputed by the governments involved. (See proposal on page 46 of Document V.)

131. In reply to a question, the ICRC representative stated that parts (a) and (b) of the proposal on page 46 *were not cumulative, but alternative.*

132. The author of document CE/Plen.2/bis spoke on Article 1 of his proposed draft protocol additional to Article 3. His draft, he said, was an attempt to draw up rules applicable in events within a State without interfering in its internal affairs but with the aim of alleviating suffering. The procedure he adopted, he said, was not to set out from too restrictive a definition but to speak of governmental military forces on the one hand and, on the other, of regular and irregular military forces not covered by Article 2, common to all the Conventions. Such a definition, in his own opinion, could not cover internal disturbances, which could not be considered to be non-international armed conflicts, although in case of need the provisions to be drawn up could be applied to them.

## CONFERENCE OF GOVERNMENT EXPERTS

133. The author of documents CE/Com.II/1-3 then explained his draft. The idea was *not to draw a distinction between international and non-international conflicts*—Article 3 providing minimum norms applicable in all armed conflicts regardless of category—but to produce a single document in the form of an additional protocol to the Third and Fourth Geneva Conventions with provisions applicable to ALL armed conflicts and with rules for the protection of the civilian population irrespective of the criteria of nationality and enemy occupation. Nevertheless, document CE/Com.II/3 did refer to wars of national liberation, recommending that the Geneva Conventions, consistent with their Article 2, should apply to them. That point of view was approved by other experts.

134. By way of preliminary, two experts nevertheless pointed out that, in their opinion, it would not be advisable to draw up a single protocol for both types of conflict. One of the experts drew attention to the fact that international law relating to armed conflicts did draw a distinction between the two and that as the distinction was based on objective criteria it would be difficult to change it; in addition, any attempt to eliminate that distinction, if accepted, would change the whole structure of international law. Consequently, a system applying simultaneously and completely to the two situations under consideration was inconceivable. Another expert held the view that it would be dangerous to have only one protocol applicable to all types of conflict, due to the fact that different situations and, hence, different needs had to be taken into account from case to case. He therefore advocated the drawing up of two additional protocols to the Geneva Conventions. The view was also expressed by one expert that the result might be to reduce protection to a lowest common denominator.

135. The Commission's discussion was thereafter concentrated on:

- the need to define international armed conflicts,
- the content and scope of a definition, and the terminology used in the draft proposals concerned.

**1. The need for a definition**

136. One expert was firmly opposed to such an attempt, considering that a correct definition would entail rights and obligations and that it would have to be applicable and applied.

137. Another expert stated that it would be difficult to reach a consensus on the criteria to be specified in the definition, which might exclude many situations and give rise to marginal cases open to endless legal discussion leading to a result at variance with the true objective, namely the extension of the scope of humanitarian law. On the other hand, he said, with good will from both sides, Article 3 as it stood could be applied in a great many circumstances.

138. In this connection, one expert reminded the Commission of the difficulties which the 1949 Diplomatic Conference had encountered and which, in his opinion, still existed, although they had not prevented the negotiators in 1949 from guaranteeing the victims of non-international armed conflicts at least basic protection. If, therefore, it was desired to ensure respect for a more complex set of rules in these conflict situations, the problem was entirely different; the more the regulation, the greater was the care required to ensure that, without a shadow of doubt, the definition covered the situations envisaged adequately.

139. In response to the argument concerning the negotiation of the 1949 Conventions, the UN Secretary-General's representative and several experts pointed out that more than twenty years had elapsed and that ideas had considerably changed. The representative of the Secretary-General also emphasized that many norms had been established to define the concept of "humanity" and of human rights, some of which had been specifically designed to be applicable in both time of war and in time of peace. According to one expert, international law was becoming more and more a part of national law; an additional protocol could make the provisions agreed upon compulsory in national law "for future rebels", national law itself making provision for respect for international law. Whilst some experts feared that a definition might come into

## CONFERENCE OF GOVERNMENT EXPERTS

conflict with State sovereignty, one of them was of the opinion that a good definition, related to characteristic situations, would avoid invoking, in respect of such situations, Article 2, paragraph 7, of the Charter; the international conscience was more and more aware of the need for protection.

140. One expert underlined the fact that a definition, apart from avoiding uncertainty, could be important in the eyes of the public in some countries.

141. *The majority of the experts considered it necessary to define non-international armed conflict.*

*(to be continued)*

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# INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

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## **Recognition of the Lesotho Red Cross Society**

GENEVA, 7 SEPTEMBER 1971

*Circular No. 484*

*To the Central Committee of the National Red Cross, Red Crescent  
and Red Lion and Sun Societies*

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

We have the honour to inform you that the International Committee of the Red Cross has officially recognized the Lesotho Red Cross Society with effect from 7 September 1971.

The new Society formally applied for recognition by the International Committee on 11 March 1971. Its request was supported by various documents including a copy of its Statutes and of the Act of 9 November 1967, a report on its activities and a letter containing a statement of adherence to the Statutes of the International Red Cross, received on 7 September 1971.

These documents, which were examined jointly by the International Committee and the Secretariat of the League of Red Cross Societies, showed that the ten qualifying conditions for recognition of a new National Society had been fulfilled.

This recognition, which the International Committee is pleased to announce, brings to 115 the total number of member Societies of the International Red Cross.

The Lesotho Red Cross, which was visited in 1968, 1970 and 1971 by representatives of the International Committee and of the League

## INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

of Red Cross Societies, is active throughout the territory. It is concerned, in case of armed conflict, with assistance provided to military and civilian wounded and sick, and to prisoners of war. In peacetime, it goes to the aid of victims of natural disasters, alleviates suffering and takes part in health improvement schemes, including those adopted for the prevention of disease.

The Government of the Kingdom of Lesotho acceded to the 1949 Geneva Conventions on 20 May 1968. The autonomous character of the Society is provided for in the Statutes and is guaranteed by the above-mentioned Act. The National Chairman of the Society is H.E. The Honourable Patrick Mota, Minister of Justice. Its headquarters is at Maseru.

The International Committee of the Red Cross has pleasure in welcoming the Lesotho Red Cross to membership of the International Red Cross, in accrediting it and commending it, by this circular, to all other National Societies, and in expressing sincere good wishes for its future and for the success of its humanitarian work.

FOR THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE  
OF THE RED CROSS

**Marcel A. Naville**

*President*

*EXTERNAL ACTIVITIES***ICRC President in the People's Republic of China**

Having expressed the wish to establish closer contacts with the Red Cross Society of China, the President of the ICRC was invited by that National Society to go to China in September. Mr. Naville, accompanied by the Presidential Attaché, Mr. Michel Barde, left Geneva for Peking on 13 September. He was welcomed in the Chinese capital by leaders of the Red Cross Society of China<sup>1</sup>, Mr. Kuo King-go, Mr. Wang Min, Mr. Li Go-hua, Mr. Shang Sheng-gan, Mrs. Lian Si-yi and Mrs. Lian Mo.

The President reviewed with them, in the course of several meetings, the ICRC's principal activities throughout the world and examined the possibility of wider co-operation between the Chinese Red Cross and the ICRC. The National Society's leaders pointed out that the Society was to undergo a major re-organization in the not too distant future.

During his stay in Peking, the President of the ICRC was, together with Mr. Barde, received by Mr. Li Sien-nien, Deputy Premier of the State Council, and talked at length with him<sup>1</sup>. The talk, which was attended by several other representatives of the Government of the People's Republic of China, and which was conducted in a most cordial atmosphere, permitted the ICRC President to set out the tasks and problems of the ICRC and to stress, in particular, the development of humanitarian law and the plan of work of the conferences of experts.

After visiting a number of places, including Tsing-Hua University, various schools and the Deaf and Dumb Care Centre, where the ICRC delegation attended a demonstration of treatment by acupuncture, it went on to Nanking and Shanghai where it visited the hospital for the "re-grafting" of severed limbs.

The President of the ICRC returned to Geneva on 27 September.

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

## **Pakistan**

*ICRC Mission.*—As already mentioned in our last issue, a mission comprising Dr. Otto Lehner, head of delegation, and Mr. Nicolas Vecsey, deputy head of the Central Tracing Agency, left Geneva on 19 August for East Pakistan. After contacting the government authorities in Islamabad and the Pakistan Red Cross in Karachi, it reached Dacca on 26 August. Its task was, essentially, to organize a tracing service in close co-operation with the Pakistan Red Cross, with a view to tracing missing persons and reuniting dispersed families.

This service started operations under ICRC auspices on 10 September. The Central Tracing Agency in Geneva has received family messages from Indian military detainees in Pakistan and has forwarded the letters to the families in India.

## **Republic of Vietnam**

Over the past month, the ICRC delegates and doctors in the Vietnam Republic visited several places of detention, namely the prisons of Tan Hiep (1 July), Chi Hoa in Saigon (6, 7 and 8 July) and the Thu Duc prison for women (13 and 14 July). They also visited the Nha Trang military prison (30 July) as well as prisoner-of-war camps at Bien Hoa (27, 28 and 29 July), Da Nang (19, 20 and 21 July), Pleiku and Can Tho (10, 11 and 12 August).

The delegates also went to five military hospitals: the American armed forces hospital in Da Nang (22 July), the Vietnamese armed forces hospitals at Nha Trang (29 July), Vung Tau (28 July), Da Nang (28 July) and Can Tho (5 August). In the Vietnamese armed forces hospital at Vung Tau, they also visited the rehabilitation centre for paraplegic patients.

They talked in private with inmates of prisoner-of-war camps and military hospitals.

## **Khmer Republic**

Dr. Werner Hinden, ICRC doctor-delegate, continued, with his mobile medical team, his programme of medical consultations in

the Phnom Penh refugee camps. He examined over 200 refugees in the Ty Kim Suor, Thach Ngoc Kvan, Chruoi Changwar and Sangkum Kech camps and also in the " KM6 Centre ".

## **Laos**

The ICRC delegation in Vientiane made a donation to the Lao Red Cross for the purchase of relief supplies for the victims of the recent floods in Laos. On 29 August, a preliminary distribution in different villages in the Vientiane plain enabled 450 families, or about 2,000 persons, to receive rice, soya and salt. Further distributions are planned.

## **Ceylon**

On 4 September, the President and some officials of the Ceylon Red Cross visited the Mirigama " rehabilitation centre for women ". Thanks to the aid rendered by the ICRC, the detainees, of whom there are about 300, were provided with clothing, material and sports articles.

Mr. Roger Du Pasquier, a delegate, left for Colombo on 16 September to continue ICRC assistance to the detainees, with the agreement of the authorities and of the Ceylon Red Cross.

## **Japan**

In the presence of an ICRC delegate, a fourth convoy of 163 Koreans who wished to leave Japan for the Democratic People's Republic of Korea sailed from Niigata on 20 August. The total number of Koreans repatriated since May 1971 is now 670.

## **East Africa**

Following the events which occurred on the Uganda-Tanzania border, the Uganda Ministry of Foreign Affairs requested the good offices of the ICRC. On 28 August, Mr. Roger Santschy, ICRC regional delegate for East Africa, left Addis Ababa for Uganda where

he contacted the government authorities and the National Red Cross Society. Later, Mr. René Weber, delegate, on arrival in Dar es Salaam on 31 August, got in touch with the Tanzanian Government and the Red Cross.

But the efforts of the ICRC were not successful and the two delegates left Kampala and Dar es Salaam, respectively, on 9 September.

## **Bolivia**

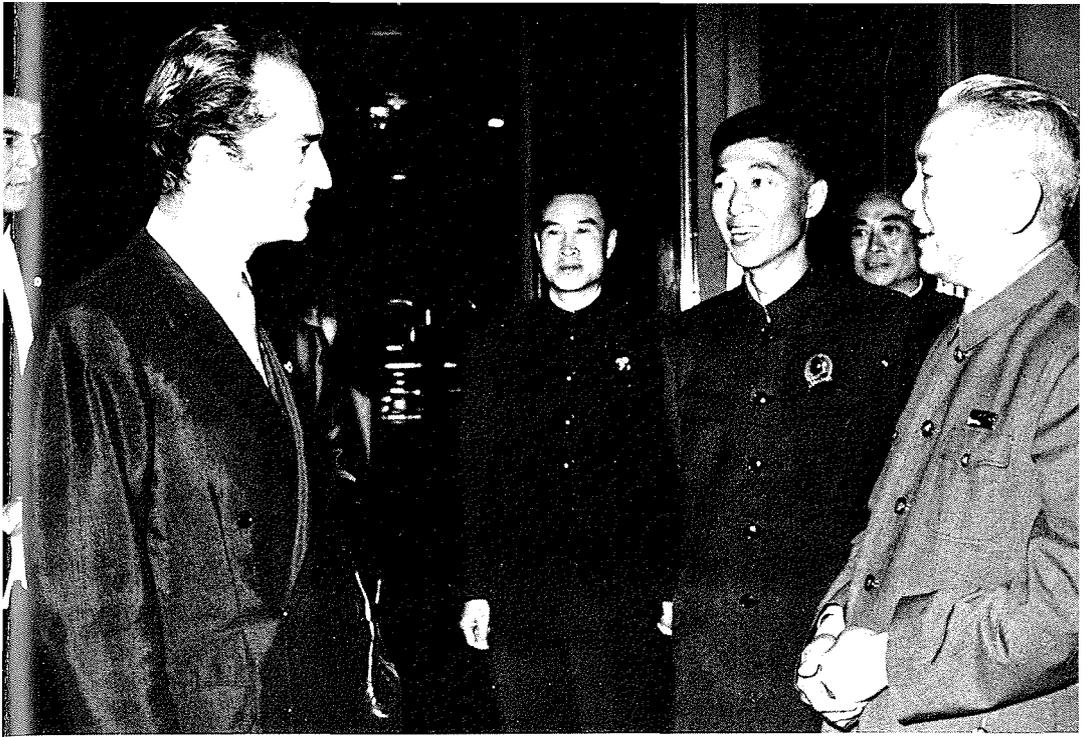
Following the events which occurred in Bolivia, the ICRC despatched its Regional Delegate for South America to that country in order to take, in agreement with the Bolivian Red Cross, the measures necessary to assist the victims. The delegate, Mr. Moreillon, therefore left Caracas by air in a plane carrying emergency supplies donated by the Venezuelan Red Cross and the ICRC (medicines, blood plasma, transfusion equipment, dressings and clothing). These supplies were delivered to the Bolivian Red Cross in La Paz on 27 August.

The government authorities granted all the facilities necessary to enable the ICRC to discharge its humanitarian mission throughout the Bolivian territory, particularly for the benefit of persons detained as a result of the events. Mr. Moreillon was accompanied by another delegate from Geneva, Mr. Gaillard-Moret. The ICRC had decided to assign the latter provisionally to its mission in Bolivia. Both made several visits to a number of places of detention in La Paz, Viacha, Cochabamba and Santa Cruz, during the first fortnight in September. They provided the detainees with clothing, blankets and medicaments which had been sent by the ICRC and by a number of National Red Cross Societies.

The National Red Cross Societies of Ecuador and Peru informed the ICRC that they despatched blood substitutes and dressing material to Bolivia by air. The ICRC, for its part, sent a second relief consignment from Geneva on 3 September.

## **Colombia**

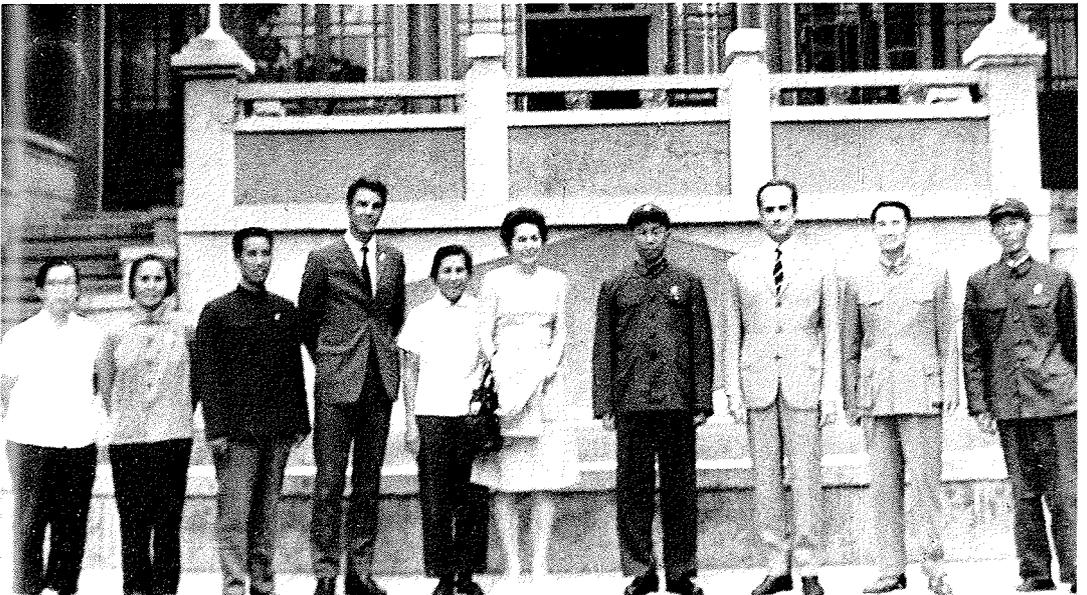
Following visits to places of detention in Colombia, and with the agreement of the government authorities, a consignment of



Peking: The ICRC President with Mr. Li Sien-nien, Deputy Premier of the State Council. (*Left*, Mr. Naville; *right*, Mr. Li Sien-nien; *centre*, Mr. Wang, of the Chinese Red Cross).

## PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

Peking: The ICRC delegation (*right*, Mr. Naville) with responsible members of the Chinese Red Cross.





CAMEROON At Yaoundé, the President of the Republic, El Hadj Ahmadou Ahidjo, greets Mr. Marcel A. Naville, President of the ICRC.

CHILE At Santiago, Dr. Salvador Allende, President of the Republic, receives at the Presidential Palace Mr. S. Nessi, Delegate-General of the ICRC for Latin America (*centre*), and Dr. Agustin Inostroza, President of the Chilean Red Cross (*right*).



medicaments for detainees was sent to the Colombian Red Cross. It arrived in Bogota on 2 September.

## **Near East**

### **Canal crossings by students**

In August several operations for the passage of students across the Suez Canal at El Qantara took place under ICRC auspices. Thus on 9, 11 and 16 August, respectively, 295, 289 and 91 Palestinians from Gaza studying in Cairo returned to their families for their vacation.

Also on 16 August, 184 students from Gaza crossed the Canal in the opposite direction to continue their studies in the Arab Republic of Egypt. In addition, three families crossed into Egypt in order to join their relatives. Two similar operations on 23 and 30 August enabled two further convoys of 180 and 187 students, as well as an UNRWA nurse and two children, to cross into Egypt. On 6 and 13 September, two further operations were carried out at El Qantara, under the auspices of the ICRC, enabling 187 and 219 students, respectively, to cross over to the west bank of the Suez Canal. After 16 August, more than 950 students reached the Arab Republic of Egypt to continue their university studies there.

On the occasion of the second operation, on 13 September, a nurse from the Arab Republic of Egypt was able to go to Gaza.

### **Arab Republic of Egypt**

During the first six months of 1971, the ICRC delegation in the Arab Republic of Egypt pursued its established activities, which are summarized in the following figures:—

- 20 visits to Israeli prisoners of war; in other words, each of the eleven prisoners in the two places of detention were visited ten times by the ICRC.
- The ICRC forwarded 444 family messages to Israeli prisoners of war who wrote 117 letters to their families.

- Egyptian prisoners of war interned in Israel sent more than 2,000 messages to their families who themselves sent almost 1,800 replies.
- The delegation transmitted 91 parcels to the Israeli prisoners of war. In the other direction, some 1,500 parcels were forwarded by the ICRC to Egyptian prisoners of war in Israeli hands.
- The ICRC delegation in Cairo received 908 requests to seek missing civilians; it was able to give 384 replies. Most enquiries came from Arab internees in the occupied territories wishing to re-establish contact with kin residing in the Arab Republic of Egypt (10%), or from residents in the Arab Republic of Egypt seeking news of civilians presumed to be interned in the occupied territories (82%). Replies were positive in 77% of cases. This work was carried out in co-operation with the Red Crescent of the Arab Republic of Egypt.
- The delegation also received, in the same period, fresh requests for information on Egyptian servicemen reported missing.

Since June 1967, the ICRC delegation in Cairo received 5,200 enquiries concerning civilians and 810 concerning servicemen. It was able to give respectively 4,560 and 795 replies.

*Visit to prisoners of war.*—On 29 August 1971, the ICRC delegates in the Arab Republic of Egypt visited the ten Israeli prisoners of war at the Abassieh military prison and one severely wounded prisoner undergoing treatment in a Cairo hospital. The delegates were able to talk in private with the prisoners. The reports on these visits are sent by the ICRC to the detaining authorities and to the prisoners' own government.

### **Israel and the occupied territories**

*Activities related to the Fourth Geneva Convention.*—The ICRC delegation in the territories occupied by Israel continues to assist prisoners and interned civilians. It organizes bus transport for relatives of detained Arab civilians who cannot afford the fare. Since

June 1969, when these operations began, 860 bus trips have made 55,303 visits to various prisons in the occupied territories possible.

The ICRC regularly distributes in the prisons of the occupied territories standard parcels to those detained Arab civilians who have not been visited by family members for at least three months. At the rate of an average of one distribution a month, since September 1969, 11,167 parcels have been delivered to the prisoners. The parcels contain fruit, biscuits, cigarettes and soap, and in winter, warm underclothing.

*Release of prisoners of war.*—The ICRC delegates in Israel and the Arab Republic of Egypt repatriated three Egyptian prisoners of war to El Qantara on 16 September.

## Syria

During the first six months of 1971, the ICRC delegation in Syria carried out its traditional activities and drew up the following statistics:

- Five visits were made to three Israeli prisoners of war and one visit to an Israeli civilian internee. The latter was repatriated under ICRC auspices on 28 February.
- The delegation received 9,434 family messages from Israel and the occupied territories, and transmitted 7,532 to those areas.
- Two family reunion operations organized by the ICRC enabled sixteen persons to return to their homes on the occupied Golan Heights.

*Visit to prisoners of war.*—The ICRC delegate in Syria visited three Israeli prisoners of war on 24 August and talked with them in private. As customary, his report is sent to the detaining authorities and to the Israeli Government.

*Reuniting of families.*—A further operation for the reuniting of families took place under ICRC auspices on 4 August, on the cease-fire line between Syria and Israel. It enabled 17 refugees from three families to join their relatives in the occupied territory of the Golan Heights.

**Jordan**

In August the ICRC delegates went to Kerak to see thirteen persons expelled from the territories occupied by Israel and handed over to them various items of relief supplies. They also were able to visit eleven detainees of Palestinian origin held in an Amman prison.

In September an ICRC delegate visited at Zerka an Israeli prisoner and talked with him without witnesses. A short time before the visit, messages and books had been delivered to this detainee by the ICRC delegation in Jordan.

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*IN GENEVA***Swiss Confederation Donation to ICRC**

At the end of September, the Swiss Confederation made available to the International Committee of the Red Cross the sum of 500,000 Swiss francs for its work in East Pakistan.

The ICRC operations in East Pakistan are conducted by three delegates and are being developed mainly for the tracing of missing persons, for reuniting dispersed families, forwarding family news and visiting detainees.

**Participation in the Geneva Conventions**

In its issue of October 1970, the *International Review* stated that 128 States were parties to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949. This number has now risen to 129. The ICRC has recently been informed by the Federal Political Department in Berne that the Swiss authorities received, on 9 August 1971, a letter from the Fijian Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs stating that Fiji considered itself bound to the Geneva Conventions of 1949, under the earlier ratification by the United Kingdom.

By this declaration of continuity, Fiji is henceforth bound, as a separate State, to the Conventions as from 10 October 1970, when it became independent.

## The ICRC in Latin America

### A mission by the Delegate-General

The ICRC Delegate-General for Latin America, Mr. Serge Nessi, spent some two months in that part of the world for contacts with governmental authorities and National Red Cross Society leaders, and also to open officially the new ICRC regional delegation in Caracas.

From 25 June to 2 July, Mr. Nessi was in Rio de Janeiro, where he met the new Interventor of the Brazilian Red Cross, Marshal Salvador Uchoa Cavalcanti, and Mr. Tom Sloper, in charge of the National Society's foreign relations. In Brasilia he had talks with the President of the Fundação Nacional dos Índios (FUNAI), General Bandeira de Mello, concerning the resumption of medical work by the Red Cross in the Amazon.<sup>1</sup>

Mr. Nessi then went to Argentina, where he stayed until 19 July. In Buenos Aires he met the Ministers of the Interior, Foreign Affairs, Education and Health, as well as the Director-General of Political Affairs in the Ministry of Defence, and the Vice-Ministers of the Interior and of Justice. Their talks centered on the dissemination of knowledge of the Geneva Conventions among the armed forces and in schools.

On that occasion, Mr. Nessi obtained authorization to visit places of detention. As a consequence thereof, from 14 to 16 July, he went to four prisons, where he saw a total of about a hundred persons detained for political reasons. The Delegate-General was also received by the President of the Argentine Red Cross, Dr. Martone, and by members of the Central Committee. He visited the National Society's premises in the capital and the Society's branches at Lomas de Zamora, Dominico and Caseros in the province of Buenos Aires.

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<sup>1</sup> See, particularly, *International Review*, June 1971.

In Chile, where he stayed from 20 to 26 July, the Delegate-General, together with the President of the Red Cross, Dr. Agustín Inostrosa, was received by the President of the Republic, Dr. Salvador Allende.<sup>1</sup> Mr. Nessi also saw the Vice-Minister and Director of the International Organizations Division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as well as the Ministers of Defence and of Health, and the head of the Cabinet in the Ministry of Education. As in Argentina, talks centered on the dissemination of the Geneva Conventions among the armed forces and in schools. He also visited the Chilean Red Cross headquarters in Santiago and some of the local branches of the Society.

In Valparaiso, he was received by the President of the departmental branch of the Red Cross and by the Governor of the province. In both towns Mr. Nessi witnessed various National Society achievements and in Santiago, on 20 July, he attended a meeting of Red Cross executives. He also visited the Society's and the League's warehouses.

Following his visit to Chile, the Delegate-General continued his mission accompanied by Mr. Jacques Moreillon, the new Regional Delegate for South America, whom he introduced to the government authorities and to National Society leaders in five countries.

In Bolivia, from 27 July to 2 August, they met members of the Government, the President of the Bolivian Red Cross, Dr. Celso Rossel, and his colleagues in the "National Directorate" of that Society. In addition, Mr. Nessi visited the Red Cross departmental committee in Oruro. It will be recalled that, whilst in La Paz, the two ICRC representatives visited three places of detention where they delivered medical supplies for detainees.

From 3 to 5 August, the Regional Delegate was in Peru, where he was introduced to the Peruvian Government authorities and to the leaders of the National Society, presided over by Dr. García Sayán. Later, the two ICRC delegates were present at a meeting of the National Society Executive Committee.

From 6 to 9 August, they were in Ecuador where, after meeting members of the Government, they had a working meeting with the

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

## INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

National Red Cross Executive Committee, presided over by Dr. Miguel A. Iturralde. They also visited the Society's premises at Quito and Guayaquil.

In Colombia, where they stayed from 10 to 13 August, the delegates met various ministers as well as members of the Red Cross Executive Committee, presided over by Professor Jorge E. Cavalier. In Venezuela, Mr. Nessi introduced to the authorities the two Regional Delegates, Mr. Moreillon and Mr. Eddi Leemann, the delegate for the Central America and Caribbean sector. The ICRC delegation was received by the President of the Republic, Dr. Rafael Caldera, and by the Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Defence, Interior, Health, Education and Justice.

On his return journey, Mr. Nessi stopped in Trinidad and Tobago, where he had talks with Dr. Moosai-Maharaj, the National Red Cross Society Secretary-General, and with Sir Solomon Hochoy, Governor-General of the country.

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### **Opening of ICRC delegation**

The official opening of the ICRC delegation took place on 19 August in the presence of Mrs. María Eugenia de Alvarez, President of the Venezuelan Red Cross, of members of the Central Committee and of the National Society staff, as well as of government authorities and press representatives.

Mrs. de Alvarez spoke first on the significance of the meeting held at the headquarters of the National Society in Caracas, and expressed her gratification at the establishment of the ICRC delegation in Venezuela, thus leading to even closer links between the Venezuelan Red Cross and the International Committee. She introduced to those present the ICRC representatives, Mr. J. Moreillon and Mr. E. Leemann, and spoke of their very wide experience in various countries in the field of humanitarian aid.

Mr. Nessi then said, in reply, that it was in response to the wish expressed by the National Societies at the Ninth Inter-American Red Cross Conference that the ICRC had decided to set up a

delegation in Latin America and had most gratefully accepted the Venezuelan Red Cross offer to provide premises and equipment. Mr. Nessi tendered his thanks to the Venezuelan National Society for their kind offer, and also to the Venezuelan Government for having granted its authorization to the ICRC to install and operate a radio transmitter and receiver. He added that it was the first time in the history of the ICRC that a permanent delegation had been opened in Latin America. The International Committee's wish to maintain closer contacts with all Latin American countries on whose co-operation it had always been able to count had thus been fulfilled.

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The delegation is now settled in premises made available to it, while, in an annex, the radio station is fully operational. Thanks to the latter, a direct link can be maintained with Geneva.

The permanent delegation will make it possible to step up visits to places of detention for which authorization has already been granted in a dozen countries, and to strengthen the links with National Red Cross Societies. In addition, it will undertake the better dissemination of the humanitarian principles underlying ICRC action.

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## **A Further Gift from the European Economic Community**

*International Review* has on several occasions referred to the generous participation of the European Economic Community (EEC) in the humanitarian action of the Red Cross.<sup>1</sup> It will be recalled that, under an initial EEC-ICRC agreement signed on 14 May 1969, the International Committee received various cereal products for its assistance programme in aid of war victims.

This was followed by other agreements. On 25 March 1970, the EEC made a further generous donation in the form of agricultural surpluses and other goods designed to give humanitarian aid to those countries of the Third World stricken by armed conflicts or famine.

During the first half of 1971, the ICRC established still closer contacts with the EEC, and three further agreements were signed.

The first of these agreements, dated 20 January 1971, related to the supply of cereals as food aid. It made available to the ICRC 12,671 tons of grain. Out of this, 4,428 tons of cereal foods have been assigned to persons displaced from the Golan area and now living in Syria, and 3,600 tons to victims of the events in the Gaza and Sinai areas.

A second agreement was signed by the EEC and the ICRC on 17 March 1971. It provided for the supply of 200 tons of baby food and 1,000 tons of enriched food as aid to East Pakistan disaster victims.

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<sup>1</sup> See, in particular, *International Review*, May 1970 and March and May 1971.

A third agreement, which was signed a few days later, on 24 March, covered the supply of 1,000 tons of powdered skimmed milk for Rumanian flood victims.

As the last two agreements related to natural disaster relief, the League of Red Cross Societies was responsible for implementing them, in close liaison with the National Societies concerned.

Again, in June 1971, following the negotiations conducted in Brussels by Mr. C. Ammann, ICRC Assistant Director, the EEC decided to participate in food aid to Pakistani refugees in India by a large donation through the ICRC.

This donation consists of 43,000 tons of rice, to a value of 44.4 million Swiss francs (including shipping costs), and 7,000 tons of other cereals, to a value of 3.4 million Swiss francs.

The rice, which comes from Italy, is in the form of husked round grains. The first ship leaving for Calcutta is to sail from Savona on 8 October. The Indian Red Cross has been asked to prepare a distribution programme and to inform the ICRC about the distribution.

The cereals have been milled and have produced 4,636 tons of flour, which is now on its way to Calcutta.

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This shows that the steady relations which the ICRC has established with the EEC have enabled the Red Cross to render effective aid to the many victims of world events. This has been due to the generosity of the European Economic Community, which the International Committee wishes to thank most warmly.

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## JORDAN RELIEF OPERATION

*On several occasions, we have published information about the relief operation undertaken by the ICRC in Jordan, with the co-operation of the League, National Societies, institutions and governments, during the last few months of 1970. But the richly illustrated Final Report which the International Committee is now publishing gives a complete picture of the action, and we think it worth while to reproduce the text, especially as it is followed by tables from which our readers will see who were the generous donors who participated in the action and the extent of the contributions received and forwarded.*

On September 6, 1970, the world was stunned at the news that two passenger aircraft, one Swissair and one TWA, had been hijacked to the desert airport in Zerka, Jordan. On the same evening the Head of the ICRC delegation in Jordan went to Zerka to assess the condition of the passengers.

On the following day in Geneva the ICRC decided to send a special delegation by Red Cross plane to Amman, Jordan. The purpose of the mission was explained by the delegation to the Prime Minister of Jordan on September 8th.

On the afternoon of September 9th a BOAC passenger aircraft was hijacked and joined the other two on the desert airfield. The following day a second Red Cross plane arrived in Amman with food, doctors and nurses. A convoy with food sent out from Amman to Zerka on September 11th was detained en route and not allowed to proceed. An ICRC doctor who had from his arrival remained in the desert with the passengers was given orders to leave. He advised that dynamite had been placed in all the aircraft.

“ I am a little child. Let me go home ! ” This plaintive plea of a small boy who had been held hostage on an aircraft in the Jordan desert was but a faint echo of the cries of anguish that rang through the hills of Jordan in the days that followed. A fortnight of fear !

Combat and casualties. Smoke and ruins. People in distress—wounded—homeless—helpless. A world aroused. For the dead, everlasting peace, for the living a tomorrow. For those in need, the Red Cross.

Meanwhile, on September 17th, civil war broke out in Jordan.

The International Committee of the Red Cross for some years has had its permanent delegations in the Middle East, in Beirut, Amman, Damascus, Cairo, Tel Aviv, Sanaa and Aden. In Jordan there were two delegates who had diligently carried out the traditional activities of the ICRC. These had been augmented by others following the aircraft hijacking. With the outbreak of internal conflict the picture changed. The ICRC delegation headquarters became a battleground and was partly destroyed. Shellfire put Red Cross radio communications out of commission for several days. There was no light, no water, no contact with the outside world. For four days the delegates were pinned down under fire. At the same time the headquarters of the Jordan Red Crescent was demolished. In this setting a major undertaking had its beginning. Further to his appeal to several countries for emergency assistance, King Hussein addressed on September 19 a formal request to the ICRC asking the Committee to coordinate all relief for Jordan.

With mounting world pressures and against maximum insecurity, actions were taken and risks involved. People were dying. People were in need. On September 23rd, the President of the ICRC appealed for a 24-hour truce in order to provide aid to the wounded. In view of the magnitude of the relief action to be undertaken, the ICRC created, on the same day, within the Department of Operations of the ICRC, a special group whose task would be the coordination of the relief action of the ICRC, the League of Red Cross Societies and the National Societies and, should the occasion arise, of other organizations. The direction of this coordinating group was assigned to the Secretary-General of the Finnish Red Cross Society. Also on that day, a Red Cross survey team was dispatched to Jordan. The green light was given to medical units to proceed to Jordan. By air and by land, via Cyprus, Beirut and Damascus they came, as well as from Israel and the occupied territories. The action was begun.

## INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

Unique in the annals of international relief, the Jordan Relief Operation was a milestone in international Red Cross cooperation. Working under the aegis of the ICRC, at its Headquarters in Geneva, the Jordan Relief Operation was independently administered, utilizing the combined resources made available by the National Societies, the League and the ICRC. Headed by the Secretary-General of the Finnish Red Cross, a table of organization was established and a headquarters staff was assembled. This staff included members from the ICRC, the League of Red Cross Societies and National Societies.

In Jordan a parallel structure was established and there was rapidly assembled a medical and relief staff from thirteen National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, the League, and the ICRC. In addition, there arrived in Jordan medical teams from 19 nations to take up the burden of providing medical care for the injured and ill.

Thus, from 25 nations and Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, around the world, individual identities were shed, and the Jordan Relief Operation without concern for prestige, power or national origin became a coordinated Red Cross reality. People were paramount and actions were focused on meeting human needs.

An initial appeal to National Red Cross, Red Crescent and Red Lion and Sun Societies was launched by ICRC on September 24, followed by additional appeals on October 6 and 9. The response was immediate and gratifying. A record of the contributions is included in this report.

With the initial temporary cease-fire agreement, the first four-man Red Cross survey team arrived in Amman in Jordan on September 24th. The situation was still very tense, and under continued sporadic gunfire, the team found itself unable to conduct an actual survey but, instead, was immediately overburdened in an attempt to bring some order into the relief situation. Flights of relief supplies were arriving, often unannounced, at the Amman airport and convoys by land came by way of Syria and the Allenby Bridge. Under very trying circumstances supplies were taken in hand for distribution to facilities that were operative, and medical teams were directed to areas where they could operate in bringing aid to the wounded. From the very beginning, Red Cross delegates

and team members at great personal risk and with maximum physical discomfort pursued their tasks.

As from September 26th, about 50 planes flew to Jordan field hospitals from France, the United States and Great Britain.

The two aircraft put at the disposal of ICRC by the Swiss Government for the Jordan Relief Operation and clearly identified as Red Cross planes, served as a life-line between Amman, Beirut, the Middle East and Europe. They carried in personnel, medical supplies and food, and evacuated hostages, the wounded and nationals from other countries who had no means of exit because there were no commercial flights operating. The aircraft continued to serve the Jordan Relief Operation at no cost until November 1st, at which time scheduled commercial flights were back in operation. These flights made possible the delivery of needed supplies to hospitals and to the stricken population and were a significant contribution to the success of the operation. In all, a total of 92 flights were made carrying a total of 587 tons of supplies.

By the first week in October, with the arrival of additional staff and with medical teams established in fixed locations, a semblance of order was brought into being. A relief headquarters was established at the King Hussein Youth Center Stadium. A supply warehouse was obtained, and a supply distribution system was established to provide relief items to hospitals and to families in need.

Logistic support was provided to both the headquarters and the field operation by ICRC permanent delegations in Lebanon, Syria and Israel. Radio contact was established between Amman, Beirut, Damascus and Geneva and the two Red Cross aircraft. Lebanon being central to the Middle East, an ICRC delegation was there with splendid cooperation from the Lebanese Red Cross which carried a major share of the support effort.

Regular visits to the field operation in Jordan were made by headquarters administrative staff. From the report of the Chief of the Relief Operation during his October 3rd visit the following can best describe the situation:

“ The present situation is difficult to evaluate because of the lack of accurate information and statistics. The exact number of casualties will probably never be known. The damage caused by the conflict is enormous in some areas, and in others not as extensive

## INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

as had been previously indicated. Living conditions have gradually improved, but the lack of water and electricity remains a serious problem. On the medical side eleven medical teams comprising 516 doctors, nurses and technical personnel have given care to 5,107 patients. In spite of difficulties the work of these teams is effective and very well coordinated through daily staff meetings and through the use of the radio network furnished by the British team. The first and critical emergency phase of the operation can be considered as terminated and now we begin a second phase of assessment and action to meet the known continuing needs of the situation."

From the above as reported by the Chief of the Relief Operation, plans were immediately launched for the second and major phase of the operation. From the Geneva headquarters an intensification of the appeal for funds and supplies was undertaken. Recruitment of additional staff and replacements for staff who were on limited assignment were undertaken and accomplished.

In Jordan better working accommodations were achieved, and regular distribution schedules were established with the cooperation of the Jordan Red Crescent Society and the "Palestinian Red Crescent." The situation in Jordan gradually improved although security was not always totally ensured. Medical teams continued their work under Red Cross coordination and planning was undertaken regarding the need for continuing medical care for an estimated 150 civilian patients who would still require hospitalization.

The activities of UNRWA which had been brought to a virtual standstill by the conflict made rapid progress of restoration in the early days of October. UNRWA had cooperated fully with the Red Cross and others in bringing emergency assistance to Jordan.

A third and final phase of the operation was planned and brought into being in late October. This involved the evacuation of medical teams and the consolidation of the remaining patients into one hospital. Under a Red Cross agreement with the Jordan Ministry of Health, the King Hussein Hospital was designated as the Red Cross hospital, to receive the remaining civilian patients. The hospital was staffed on a cooperative basis by the Jordan Ministry of Health, the Jordan Army Medical Service and the coordinated units of the Red Cross, and on October 30 the consoli-

dation of the remaining patients into one hospital was achieved. With the cooperation of the Governments of France, Great Britain and the United States, equipment brought to Jordan by the medical team from these countries was left at the Red Cross hospital to assure its capable operation. This was augmented by supplementary supplies contributed by medical teams from Red Cross Societies and supplies sent by donors to the Jordan Relief Action.

Of the 174 casualties transported to Lebanon by the ICRC immediately following the conflict, by November 30th, all but 23 had been discharged or repatriated to Jordan. The final "patients still requiring hospitalization" were air evacuated to Jordan on November 29th. From the records maintained by the Red Cross and government-sponsored medical teams, more than 2500 patients were admitted to hospitals in which these teams were working. Over 2300 operations were performed and more than 7850 persons were treated as out-patients.

From November 1st until the close of the operation the distribution of relief supplies was undertaken totally by the Jordan Red Crescent Society and the "Palestinian Red Crescent" under the supervision of the Red Cross Jordan Relief Action. In addition they received quantities of food and medicaments sent directly to them without going through the Jordan Relief Operation. In addition to the air lifts, convoys crossing the Allenby Bridge brought in large quantities of supplies collected in Israel and the occupied territories including food purchased by the ICRC delegation in Israel. As has been indicated, during the confusion immediately following the conflict, all incoming supplies could not be properly documented. However, records do indicate that in excess of 1,800,000 kilos of supplies were received and distributed by the Jordan Red Cross relief team. These included 1,500,000 kilos of food, 112,000 kilos of medical supplies, plus quantities of tents, blankets, clothing and other materials.

As of December 1st, discussions had been held with the medical and surgical staff at the King Hussein Hospital regarding the remaining patients. The patient load was decreasing daily and the Jordan medical authorities along with the Red Cross team physicians agreed that the remaining patients' care was entirely within the capabilities of the local medical and nursing personnel. It was

## INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

agreed therefore to release the remaining Red Cross medical and nursing staff by December 10th. As of December 10th there were but 14 patients in the hospital.

A final relief convoy left Beirut on December 5th for Amman carrying food, medical supplies, clothing and tents. The convoy arrived in Amman on December 6th and the Red Cross staff began an immediate distribution of the tents and other supplies with the cooperation of the Jordan Red Crescent Society and the "Palestinian Red Crescent". By December 10th the remaining Red Cross team members left Jordan for home.

\* \* \*

### Jordan Relief Operation

<i>Country</i>	<i>Cash</i>	<i>Personnel</i>	<i>In kind— value where known</i>	<i>Total</i>
	Fr.	Fr.	Fr.	Fr.
Abu Dhabi		not specified		
Algeria		31,000.—	93,140.—	124,140.
Australia (Red Cross)	23,825.—			23,825.
Austria (Red Cross)			66,000.—	66,000.
Belgium *	2,300.—		530,500.—	532,800.
Canada (Red Cross)	71,600.—	8,526.—	72,240.—	152,366.
(Gvt)	210,500.—			210,500.
Cyprus			not specified	not specifi
Denmark *		648,102.—		648,102.
Dubai		not specified		
Ethiopia (Red Cross)	10,000.—			10,000.
Finland *	51,600.—	316,922.—	76,295.—	444,817.
France (Red Cross)	20,000.—	52,360.—		72,360.
(Gvt)		1,193,500.—	74,382.—	1,267,882.
German Dem. Rep.				
(Red Cross)			216,114.—	216,114.
Germany Fed. Rep. *		96,022.—	528,203.—	624,225.
Great Britain (Red Cross)	20,600.—	20,895.—	71,490.—	112,985.
(Gvt)		2,000,000.—		2,000,000.
Iceland (Red Cross)	2,500.—			2,500.
Indonesia (Gvt)	22,800.—			22,800.
Iraq		not specified		
Ireland (Red Cross)	20,600.—			20,600.
Israel (Gvt)			(400 tons)	
Italy (Red Cross) *	94,551.—		175,000.—	269,551.
Japan (Red Cross)	8,640.—		10,035.—	18,675.
Kuwait (Red Crescent)		not specified	618,100.—	618,100.

\* Including Government contribution.

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

Country	Cash	Personnel	In kind— value where known	Total
	Fr.	Fr.	Fr.	Fr.
Lebanon (Red Cross)			58,700.—	58,700.—
Liechtenstein (Red Cross)	5,000.—			5,000.—
Luxembourg (Red Cross)	3,000.—			3,000.—
Libya		not specified		
Monaco (Red Cross)	1,560.—			1,560.—
Morocco (Red Crescent)			250,000.—	250,000.—
Netherlands (Red Cross)	210,000.—	35,700.—	190,281.—	435,981.—
(Gvt)	120,000.—		714,000.—	834,000.—
New Zealand (Red Cross)	24,480.—			24,480.—
Norway (Red Cross)	60,400.—	30,200.—	513,400.—	604,000.—
(Gvt)	120,800.—			120,800.—
Philippines (Red Cross)	1,080.—			1,080.—
Poland (Red Cross)			10,500.—	10,500.—
Qatar (Gvt)			300,000.—	300,000.—
Rumania (Red Cross)			112,700.—	112,700.—
Saudi Arabia		not specified		
South Africa (Red Cross)	3,005.—			3,005.—
Spain (Red Cross)	10,000.—		135,000.—	145,000.—
Sudan		not specified		
Sweden *	248,930.—	127,922.—	1,529,970.—	1,906,822.—
Switzerland (Red Cross)		25,000.—	100,000.—	125,000.—
(Gvt)		100,000.—	2,900,000.—	3,000,000.—
Syria (Red Crescent)	15,600.—			15,600.—
Tunisia (Red Crescent)			not specified	
Turkey (Red Crescent)			135,512.—	135,512.—
United Arab Rep.			not specified	
USSR (Red Cross)		23,088.—	86,400.—	109,488.—
USA (Red Cross)	216,000.—	71,755.—		287,755.—
(Gvt)	432,000.—	4,320,000.—		4,752,000.—
Yemen People's Dem. Rep.			not specified	
Yugoslavia (Red Cross)			15,000.—	15,000.—
<i>Others</i>				
European Economic Com- munity			1,000,000.—	1,000,000.—
Individuals	27,300.—			27,300.—
Lutheran W.F.	43,200.—			43,200.—
OXFAM	154,500.—			154,500.—
Save the Children Fund		259,250.—		259,250.—
SHARE		(included in US Government)	(150 tons)	
Catholic Relief Service			14,500.—	14,500.—
JNHCR	21,600.—			21,600.—
JNRWA			40,000.—	40,000.—
Private groups on West Bank			(490 tons)	
	2,277,971.—	9,360,242.—	10,637,462.—	22,275,675.—

\* Including Government contribution.

## INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

	<i>Swiss Francs</i>	
<b>Relief to victims</b>		
1. Food	151,429.—	
2. Clothing	27,497.—	
3. Shelter—household items—bedding	157,227.—	
4. Medical treatment and supply	603,440.—	
5. Transport	242,433.—	
5. Warehousing	113,245.—	
7. Special relief supplies and equipment	64,427.—	
3. Participation in artificial limb and rehabilitation centre in Jordan	250,000.—	1,609,698.—
<b>Administration costs—Headquarters and field</b>		
0. Salaries	97,443.—	
0. Insurances	69,387.—	
1. Per diem and travel	301,018.—	
2. Communications	43,023.—	
3. Office supplies—equipment	81,357.—	
4. Maintenance and storage or returned equipment and supplies in Beirut warehouse for preparedness in the area	76,045.—	668,273.—
<b>Total</b>		<b>2,277,971.—</b>
total funds promised and received		2,277,971.—
<b>total value</b>		
assistance given to the victims of Jordan conflict		
in cash		2,277,971.—
in kind		10,637,462.—
in services		9,360,242.—
<b>Grand total</b>		<b>22,275,675.—</b>

\*

**Medical teams from the following countries were sent to Jordan to assist in the relief operation:**

*Abu Dhabi, Algeria, Denmark, Dubai, Finland, France, Germany (Federal Republic), Great Britain, Iraq, Kuwait, Lybia, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, UAR, USA, USSR.*

**Individual staff members were loaned to the Jordan relief operation from Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies from the following countries:**

*Australia, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Great Britain, Greece, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, Tunisia, United States.*

## A NEW VENTURE

*The Press and Information Division of the ICRC issued, in September 1971, the first number of a profusely illustrated periodical, under the title Aspects. It is primarily intended for circulation among the Swiss people, who support extensively the ICRC by their donations, and will appear twice yearly, in French and German.*

*The aim is to present a wide coverage of ICRC activities and to throw light upon the work it accomplishes for the benefit of victims in war-time. A number of examples of such work are published in this first issue, as may be seen from the variety of the articles listed in the table of contents, varying from the description of the duties of an ICRC delegate in the Laos jungle to the role of the ICRC in Africa. Our readers will certainly be interested to read what Mr. Ch. Ammann, Head of the ICRC Logistics Division, has written on the initial stages and development of a relief action.*

Severe fighting has broken out, and large numbers of wounded are coming in, but hospitals are disorganized, the medical staff cannot cope with the flow of casualties and stocks of medicaments have all run out. Appeals for aid have been sent to the International Committee of the Red Cross. How will it organize its emergency relief action?

For more than a hundred years now since delegates of the ICRC have been going forward to the scene of battle, they have come to know what are the most urgent needs. Blood plasma or blood substitutes must be swiftly sent out, together with blood transfusion apparatus, antibiotics, various drugs such as spasmolytics, narcotics and sedatives, dressings and surgical instruments.

If no list of requirements is sent to the ICRC by any of the parties to the conflict, the ICRC prepares standard relief consignments by means of which at least about a hundred seriously wounded persons can be treated.

## INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

To be really efficacious, such a consignment should be sent together with a doctor-delegate or better still, a medical team. The team dispatched to the scene by the ICRC, with the authorization of the parties to the conflict, usually comprises a surgeon, an assistant, an anaesthetist, a nurse (either male or female) and a theatre nurse. In the early stages, needs must be estimated on the spot and an initial evaluation of the situation sent to Geneva. As might be expected, the whole situation is very often in a state of confusion by reason of changing events taking place in the midst of violence, and it is not always easy to know which hospitals may still be operational, and on what kind of local medical structure the ICRC is able to count. Will the Red Cross teams be obliged to work in roughly installed wards, or should fully equipped autonomous field hospitals, including a surgical operating unit with its material, personnel, and even a fortnight's rations, be sent out immediately?

This preliminary work takes time: it is difficult to obtain news, to assess the number of wounded and the needs in medicaments, and also to send all this information back to Geneva. All the same, the ICRC waits for its reconnaissance team's first report to come in before drawing up a definite plan of action.

The scale of suffering sometimes exceeds the powers of the ICRC. It then launches appeals to the general public through the channel of the National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. Telex messages from the ICRC are transmitted in a continuous stream and, some hours later, stocks of relief supplies pile up in numerous countries and medical personnel is mobilized. The links in the chain are steadily forged and quickly a large-scale relief action, under the co-ordination of the ICRC, gets under way. It might last for a period that could vary in length; it could be centered on medical care or on the distribution of foodstuffs, or, perhaps, on the provision of shelter or clothing for victims. Depending on the indications flowing in, it is possible for each National Society to let the ICRC know what it intends to contribute: a Society may offer to make available medico-social teams to the ICRC, others send administrative staff, or transport experts, or again radiocommunication technicians.

In its appeal, the ICRC gives technical and practical details to all its "correspondents". For instance, the food that must be provided for the hapless inhabitants must be chosen according to their local eating habits and the personnel must be briefed on the way they must present their aid so as to be in keeping with local conditions.

Consignments are just as meticulously prepared: instructions are given as to addresses, packing, method of transport (by air, sea, rail or road). The indication "Red Cross" must not be omitted, for, through it, customs duty exemptions, reductions in carriage costs and priorities for import formalities are obtained. A plan of action is drawn up on the basis of the information received; in Geneva, the work is pushed forward night and day. During that time, the ICRC delegates in the field are also active. Concurrently with the action proper, the protection of the teams and the organization of the work to be done must be attended to. For this, it is necessary to get in touch with civilian and military authorities and to conclude with the parties to the conflict agreements whereby all relief activities will be submitted to the rules laid down in them. The distribution of food supplies, for instance, may be regulated in schedules signed by all the belligerents. It is in such fashion that the ICRC moves from the emergency phase to that of the co-ordination of a relief action that could be long drawn out or that may last for only a short period.

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

(AGREED AND AMENDED ON SEPTEMBER 25, 1952)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



# ***H. Ritschard & Cie. S.A.***

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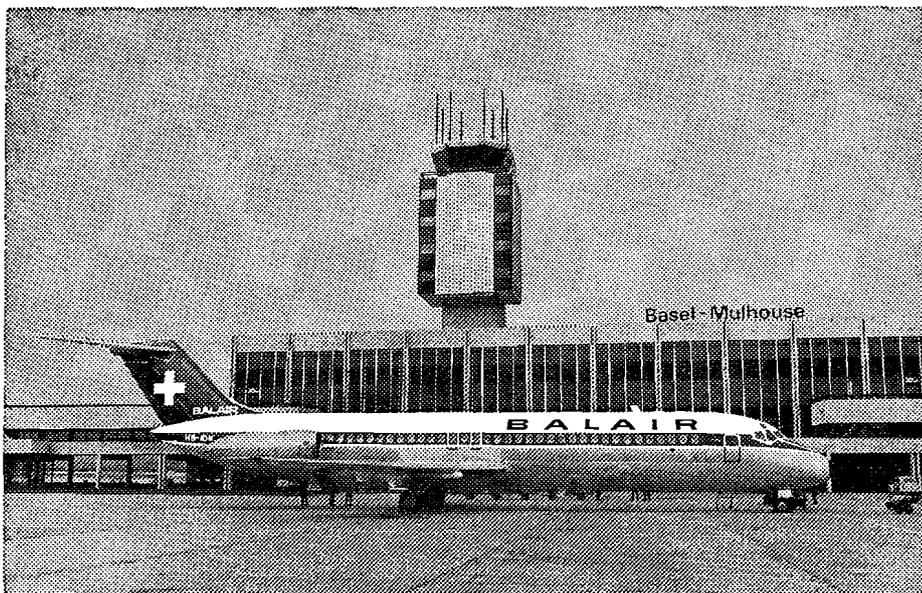
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## ADDRESSES OF NATIONAL SOCIETIES

- AFGHANISTAN — Afghan Red Crescent, *Kabul*.
- ALBANIA — Albanian Red Cross, 35, Rruga e Barrikadavet, *Tirana*.
- ALGERIA — Central Committee of the Algerian Red Crescent Society, 15 bis, Boulevard Mohamed V, *Algiers*.
- ARAB REPUBLIC OF EGYPT — Red Crescent Society of the Arab Republic of Egypt, 34 rue Ramses, *Cairo*.
- ARGENTINA — Argentine Red Cross, H. Yrigoyen 2068, *Buenos Aires*.
- AUSTRALIA — Australian Red Cross, 122-128 Flinders Street, *Melbourne, C. 1*.
- AUSTRIA — Austrian Red Cross, 3 Gusshausstrasse, Postfach 39, *Vienna IV*.
- BELGIUM — Belgian Red Cross, 98 Chaussée de Vleurgat, *Brussels 5*.
- BOLIVIA — Bolivian Red Cross, Avenida Simón Bolívar, 1515 (Casilla 741), *La Paz*.
- BOTSWANA — Botswana Red Cross Society, P.O. Box 485, *Gaborone*.
- BRAZIL — Brazilian Red Cross, Praça Cruz Vermelha 12 zc/86, *Rio de Janeiro*.
- BULGARIA — Bulgarian Red Cross, 1, Boul. S. S. Biruzov, *Sofia*.
- BURMA — Burma Red Cross, 42 Strand Road, Red Cross Building, *Rangoon*.
- BURUNDI — Red Cross Society of Burundi, rue du Marché 3, P.O. Box 324, *Bujumbura*.
- CAMEROON — Central Committee of the Cameroon Red Cross Society, rue Henry-Dunant, P.O.B. 631, *Yaoundé*.
- CANADA — Canadian Red Cross, 95 Wellesley Street, East, *Toronto 284* (Ontario).
- CEYLON — Ceylon Red Cross, 106 Dharmapala Mawatha, *Colombo VII*.
- CHILE — Chilean Red Cross, Avenida Santa María 0150, Correo 21, Casilla 246V., *Santiago de Chile*.
- CHINA — Red Cross Society of China, 22 Kanmien Hutung, *Peking, E*.
- COLOMBIA — Colombian Red Cross, Carrera 7a, 34-65, Apartado nacional 1110, *Bogotá D.E.*
- CONGO — Red Cross of the Congo, 41 Avenue Vaicke P.O. Box 1712, *Kinshasa*.
- COSTA RICA — Costa Rican Red Cross, Calle 5a, Apartado 1025, *San José*.
- CUBA — Cuban Red Cross, Calle 23 201 esq. N. Vedado, *Havana*.
- CZECHOSLOVAKIA — Czechoslovak Red Cross, Thunovska 18, *Prague I*.
- DAHOMEY — Red Cross Society of Dahomey, P.O. Box 1, *Porto Novo*.
- DENMARK — Danish Red Cross, Ny Vestergade 17, *Copenhagen K*.
- DOMINICAN REPUBLIC — Dominican Red Cross, Calle Juan Enrique Dunant, Ensanche Miraflores, *Santo Domingo*.
- ECUADOR — Ecuadorian Red Cross, Calle de la Cruz Roja y Avenida Colombia 118, *Quito*.
- EL SALVADOR — El Salvador Red Cross, 3a Avenida Norte y 3a Calle Poniente 21, *San Salvador*.
- ETHIOPIA — Ethiopian Red Cross, Red Cross Road No. 1, P.O. Box 195, *Addis Ababa*.
- FINLAND — Finnish Red Cross, Tehtaankatu 1 A, Box 14168, *Helsinki 14*.
- FRANCE — French Red Cross, 17 rue Quentin Bauchart, *Paris (8<sup>e</sup>)*.
- GERMANY (Dem. Republic) — German Red Cross in the German Democratic Republic, Kaitzerstrasse 2, *Dresden A. 1*.
- GERMANY (Federal Republic) — German Red Cross in the Federal Republic of Germany, Friedrich-Ebert-Allee 71, 5300, *Bonn 1*, Postfach (D.B.R.).
- GHANA — Ghana Red Cross, P.O. Box 835, *Accra*.
- GREAT BRITAIN — British Red Cross, 9 Grosvenor Crescent, *London, S.W.1*.
- GREECE — Hellenic Red Cross, rue Lycavittou 1, *Athens 135*.
- GUATEMALA — Guatemalan Red Cross, 3<sup>a</sup> Calle 8-40, Zona 1, *Guatemala C.A.*
- GUYANA — Guyana Red Cross, P.O. Box 351, Eve Leary, *Georgetown*.
- HAITI — Haiti Red Cross, Place des Nations Unies, B.P. 1337, *Port-au-Prince*.
- HONDURAS — Honduran Red Cross, Calle Henry Dunant 516, *Tegucigalpa*.
- HUNGARY — Hungarian Red Cross, Arany Janos utca 31, *Budapest V*.
- ICELAND — Icelandic Red Cross, Öldugøtu 4, Post Box 872, *Reykjavík*.
- INDIA — Indian Red Cross, 1 Red Cross Road, *New Delhi 1*.
- INDONESIA — Indonesian Red Cross, Djalan Abdulmuiss 66, P.O. Box 2009, *Djakarta*.
- IRAN — Iranian Red Lion and Sun Society, Avenue Ark, *Teheran*.
- IRAQ — Iraqi Red Crescent, Al-Mansour, *Baghdad*.
- IRELAND — Irish Red Cross, 16 Merrion Square, *Dublin 2*.
- ITALY — Italian Red Cross, 12 via Toscana, *Rome*.
- IVORY COAST — Ivory Coast Red Cross Society, B.P. 1244, *Abidjan*.
- JAMAICA — Jamaica Red Cross Society, 76 Arnold Road, *Kingston 5*.
- JAPAN — Japanese Red Cross, 5 Shiba Park, Minato-Ku, *Tokyo 105*.
- JORDAN — Jordan National Red Crescent Society, P.O. Box 10 001, *Amman*.
- KENYA — Kenya Red Cross Society, St Johns Gate, P.O. Box 712, *Nairobi*.
- KHMER REPUBLIC — Khmer Red Cross, 17 Vithei Croix-Rouge khmère, P.O.B. 94, *Phnom-Penh*.
- KOREA (Democratic People's Republic) — Red Cross Society of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, *Pyongyang*.
- KOREA (Republic) — The Republic of Korea National Red Cross, 32-3 Ka Nam San-Donk, *Seoul*.

## ADDRESSES OF NATIONAL SOCIETIES

- KUWAIT — Kuwait Red Crescent Society, P.O. Box 1359, *Kuwait*.
- LAOS — Lao Red Cross, P.B. 650, *Vientiane*.
- LEBANON — Lebanese Red Cross, rue Général Spears, *Beirut*.
- LESOTHO — Lesotho Red Cross Society, P.O. Box 366, *Maseru*.
- LIBERIA — Liberian National Red Cross, National Headquarters, 13th Street-Sinkor, P.O. Box 226, *Monrovia*.
- LIBYAN ARAB REPUBLIC — Libyan Red Crescent, Berka Omar Mukhtar Street, P.O. Box 541, *Benghazi*.
- LIECHTENSTEIN — Liechtenstein Red Cross, FL-9490 *Vaduz*.
- LUXEMBOURG — Luxembourg Red Cross, Parc de la Ville, C.P. 234, *Luxembourg*.
- MADAGASCAR — Red Cross Society of Madagascar, rue Clémenceau, P.O. Box 1168, *Tananarive*.
- MALAWI — Malawi Red Cross, Hall Road, Box 247, *Blantyre*.
- MALAYSIA — Malaysian Red Cross Society, 519 Jalan Belfield, *Kuala Lumpur*.
- MALI — Mali Red Cross, B.P. 280, route de Koulikora, *Bamako*.
- MEXICO — Mexican Red Cross, Avenida Ejército Nacional n° 1032, *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, rue Benzakour, B.P. 189, *Rabat*.
- NEPAL — Nepal Red Cross Society, Tripureshwar, P.B. 217, *Kathmandu*.
- NETHERLANDS — Netherlands Red Cross, 27 Prinsessegracht, *The Hague*.
- NEW ZEALAND — New Zealand Red Cross, 61 Dixon Street, P.O.B. 6073, *Wellington C.2*.
- NICARAGUA — Nicaraguan Red Cross, 12 Avenida Noroeste 305, *Managua*, D.N.
- NIGER — Red Cross Society of Niger, B.P. 386, *Niamey*.
- NIGERIA — Nigerian Red Cross Society, Eko Akete Close, off St. Gregory Rd., Onikan, P.O. Box 764, *Lagos*.
- NORWAY — Norwegian Red Cross, Parkveien 33b, *Oslo*.
- PAKISTAN — Pakistan Red Cross, Dr Dawood Pota Road, *Karachi 4*.
- PANAMA — Panamanian Red Cross, Apartado 668, Zona 1, *Panamá*.
- PARAGUAY — Paraguayan Red Cross, calle André Barbero y Artigas 33, *Asunción*.
- PERU — Peruvian Red Cross, Jirón Chancay 881, *Lima*.
- PHILIPPINES — Philippine National Red Cross, 860 United Nations Avenue, P.O.B. 280, *Manila D-406*.
- POLAND — Polish Red Cross, Mokotowska 14, *Warsaw*.
- PORTUGAL — Portuguese Red Cross, Jardim 9 de Abril, 1 a 5, *Lisbon 3*.
- RUMANIA — Red Cross of the Socialist Republic of Rumania, 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, Bld. Franklin-Roosevelt, P.O.B. 299, *Dakar*.
- SIERRA LEONE — Sierra Leone Red Cross Society, 6 Liverpool Street, P.O.B. 427, *Freetown*.
- SOMALI REPUBLIC — Somali Red Crescent Society, P.O. Box 937, *Mogadishu*.
- SOUTH AFRICA — South African Red Cross, Cor. Kruis & Market Streets, P.O.B. 8726, *Johannesburg*.
- SPAIN — Spanish Red Cross, Eduardo Dato 16, *Madrid, 10*.
- SUDAN — Sudanese Red Crescent, P.O. Box 235, *Khartoum*.
- SWEDEN — Swedish Red Cross, Artillerigatan 6, 10440, *Stockholm 14*.
- SWITZERLAND — Swiss Red Cross, Taubenstrasse 8, B.P. 2699, 3001 *Berne*.
- SYRIA — Syrian Red Crescent, Bd Mahdi Ben Barake, *Damascus*.
- TANZANIA — Tanganyika Red Cross Society, Upanga Road, P.O.B. 1133, *Dar es Salaam*.
- THAILAND — Thai Red Cross Society, King Chulalongkorn Memorial Hospital, *Bangkok*.
- TOGO — Togolese Red Cross Society, 51, rue Boko Soga, P.O. Box 655, *Lomé*.
- TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO — Trinidad and Tobago Red Cross Society, 105, Woodford Street, P.O. Box 357, *Port of Spain*.
- TUNISIA — Tunisian Red Crescent, 19 rue d'Angleterre, *Tunis*.
- TURKEY — Turkish Red Crescent, Yenisehir, *Ankara*.
- UGANDA — Uganda Red Cross, Nabunya Road, P.O. Box 494, *Kampala*.
- UPPER VOLTA — Upper Volta Red Cross, P.O.B. 340, *Ouagadougou*.
- URUGUAY — Uruguayan Red Cross, Avenida 8 de Octubre 2990, *Montevideo*.
- U.S.A. — American National Red Cross, 17th and D Streets, N.W., *Washington 6, D.C.*
- U.S.S.R. — Alliance of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, Tcheremushki, J. Tcheremushkinskii proezd 5, *Moscow W-36*.
- VENEZUELA — Venezuelan Red Cross, Avenida Andrés Bello No. 4, Apart. 3185, *Caracas*.
- VIET NAM (Democratic Republic) — Red Cross of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, 68 rue Bà-Triệu, *Hanoi*.
- VIET NAM (Republic) — Red Cross of the Republic of Viet Nam, 201 duong Hồng-Thập-Tu, No. 201, *Saigon*.
- YUGOSLAVIA — Yugoslav Red Cross, Simina ulica broj 19, *Belgrade*.
- ZAMBIA — Zambia Red Cross, P.O. Box R.W.1., Ridgeway, *Lusaka*.