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INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

INFORMATION NOTE OF MARCH 28, 1952, CONCERNING THE CONFLICT IN KOREA

Taking its information from a communiqué of the New China Agency, Radio Peking has broadcast tendentious and abusive references to the role it attributes to the International Committee of the Red Cross in connection with a proposed inquiry into allegations that bacteriological weapons have been employed in Korea. The terms of the broadcast have been reproduced by other press and radio agencies.

The true facts are that the International Committee never constitutes itself into an Inquiry Commission; should all the interested parties consent, it may agree to designate outside experts to make an inquiry.

The International Committee received protests from the Red Cross Societies of Hungary, Poland, Roumania and Bulgaria against the alleged employment of bacteriological weapons by United Nations forces. On its side, the United States Government asked if the Committee would consent to make an Inquiry on the subject. In view of these protests and the request made, the Committee informed the two belligerent parties that it would be prepared to nominate and direct an Inquiry Commission of recognized experts from countries taking no part in the Korean conflict, provided the consent of both parties was forthcoming and that the Commission would have the cooperation, on either side of the front, of the authorities and of specialists whom they would nominate.

In this way, each belligerent party could check the work of the Commission.

It is thus clear that the allegations made by the New China Agency, and broadcast, among others, by Radio Peking, are absolutely at variance with the facts, and, as such, categorically denied by the International Committee.

A SLIGHT ADJUSTMENT

Geneva, April 4, 1952

The International Committee of the Red Cross in Geneva is once again the object of attacks relative to its alleged inaction in regard to the tragedy of the German concentration camps during the 1939-1945 conflict. The Committee has already proved the baseless character of such criticism by the publication of a White Book in 1946 and a General Report in 1948, which are available to all.

It should be recalled that during the Second World War, only one *ad hoc* Convention existed for the protection of military wounded and prisoners of war. Accordingly before hostilities began and on their outbreak the ICRC multiplied its appeals to States for giving civilians in enemy hands a definite legal status, entitling them to effective protection and humane treatment. But the States did not respond to these appeals, and the ICRC could not extend its traditional assistance to those detained for political reasons. Until almost the very last phase of the conflict, its access to concentration camps was invariably prohibited.

The Committee did not however relax its efforts. Information having been obtained concerning a certain number of political prisoners, food parcels were sent them, and this practice was continued for all those whose names and places of captivity could be ascertained. A total of 750,000 food parcels was thus distributed. In view of the impoverished conditions reigning in Europe at the time, the Committee had great difficulty in procuring the parcels, the Allied blockade not having been lifted in behalf of these prisoners.

In March 1945 belated concessions were at last made by the Reich. Delegates of the ICRC were allowed access to several camps, where they remained until the Liberation, thus preventing last-minute massacres. Further, the ICRC established thirty-seven truck lines plying between Geneva

and Lübeck to carry food supplies, through Germany in a state of chaos, for the relief (by day or night and even on the roadside) of the mixed masses of civilian detainees and prisoners of war, who had hastily been evacuated from camps. The ICRC also liberated some camp inmates, notably seven hundred women from Ravensbrück, who were conveyed to Switzerland. These results may have been partial; but they nevertheless saved thousands of lives.

Throughout the War, the ICRC continued its appeals to the Reich authorities in behalf of civilian internees, and the concessions related above were only obtained after constant pressure. Some surprise has been expressed at the absence of any public protest by the ICRC. In default of an adequate Convention it was deprived of the right to claim access to camps. On just the same grounds the Committee raises no protest at the present day in regard to concentration camps which are notified to it, but to which it has no access. Moreover, protests of this nature are usually without effect. In Germany, for instance, such protests would doubtless have irremediably compromised the Committee's current action in favour of two million prisoners of war and a number of civilian internees. In the face of the Committee's insistence Berlin had in fact at one time, threatened to denounce the Geneva Convention relative to prisoners of war.

Public protest is perhaps an easy way of soothing one's conscience with the false belief that something has been achieved. But where practical and urgent action is required, it is often most effective in the primary interest of the victims themselves when it is silent, even at the risk of misunderstanding and misrepresentation.

PRINCIPAL ITEMS OF INTEREST

Korea. — (See P. 79). During the first quarter of 1952, the Central Prisoners of War Agency received official notification of 5,958 North Korean military personnel and Chinese volunteers held by the United Nations forces, together with the names of 1,178 deceased, of both nationalities. This information was conveyed, through the Moscow Embassy of the Peoples' Democratic Republic of Korea, to the prisoners' Home Powers, also enquiries concerning 73 German ministers of religion resident in North Korea. Information regarding the Chinese volunteers, and the enquiries, were also sent to the Chinese Red Cross.

Repatriation of Greek children. — On March 16, the fifth group of 84 Greek children from Jugoslavia left Belgrade for Salonika, where the children were handed over to their parents. The party was escorted by a delegate of the International Committee and the League, who in the usual manner was in support of the Jugoslav and Greek Red Cross Societies for the purpose of the repatriation.

Refugees. — Among the Resolutions passed by the VIth Pan-American Red Cross Conference held in Mexico last October, one was intended to acquaint Governments of the American Continent, through the intermediary of National Societies, with the serious problem of the refugees.

In view of this Resolution, and with the agreement of the League, the International Committee recently sent a letter to all Red Cross Societies of South and Central America, urging that every useful approach be made to their respective Governments, to arouse interest in the question of war victims and for their resettlement. In particular, the International Committee suggested that National Societies should endeavour to put schemes in motion, as far as their means allow and even on a reduced scale, for instance to facilitate the entry of small groups

into each country and their resettlement as members of the community. Moreover, the International Committee suggests that National Societies should not limit their efforts to the immigration of refugees—that they should be taken in charge on arrival and, if required, afforded material assistance until they are able to earn their living.

Similar approach has been made to the American and Canadian Red Cross on the subject of the Mexican Conference appeal.

Medical and Safety Zones. — In order that National Societies may be in a position to give useful assistance to authorities in their countries for the preliminary study of the setting up of Safety Zones, the International Committee has recently provided them with a draft plan giving all practical details to this effect. (See P. 85).

Third International Red Cross broadcast. — On Henry Dunant's birthday, May 8 (since 1948 entitled "International Red Cross Day") a special broadcast will be made from Radio-Geneva at 8.30 p.m. (GMT+1), with Duplex relays to about 10 other stations, on the work of the Red Cross, under the title "A hundred years later: under the same flag".

This broadcast is being given on the initiative of the International Committee under the auspices of the ICRC and the League, and is sponsored by the European Broadcasting Union. This year National Societies will be particularly well represented by members of ten different Societies sharing in the broadcast. These countries are Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Greece, Yugoslavia, Morocco¹, Switzerland and (on different relays owing to differences of time or previous engagements) Canada, France-Asia (Saigon), Luxemburg and Monaco. Technical difficulties are unfortunately likely to prevent the intended participation of Australia.

A broadcast of this description requires considerable preparation; for some months the International Committee and the

¹ The participation of Morocco is not yet definitive.

League have been in contact with National Societies. A meeting was held on January 11 at the Paris headquarters of the French Red Cross, attended by representatives of the two International Red Cross bodies, four National Societies and members of several broadcasting agencies. The meeting drew up a general outline of the broadcast programme which will stress the universal nature of the Red Cross ; this theme will run through the narratives of the most modest of Red Cross helpers throughout the world, and will be mentioned in a short address by M. François-Poncet, Chairman of the Standing Commission.

The preliminary meeting also examined various technical questions in regard to this broadcast by Radio-Geneva, which has to a large extent been organised by the ICRC Broadcasting Section. For instance, the Duplex relays (i.e. direct contact by radio or cable) have to be carefully planned, especially for contacts with countries overseas. In view of the special nature of this broadcast, approach had to be made to the postal and wireless authorities of the countries concerned for the gratuitous use of certain lines. The Swiss postal authorities, always favourably inclined towards the Red Cross, have already given their kind consent.

PROTECTION TO CIVILIAN PERSONS
IN TIME OF WAR

*SUGGESTED PLANNING IN PEACETIME
OF HOSPITAL AND SAFETY ZONES*

Circular No. 398

Geneva, March 20, 1952.

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

Dear Sirs,

Under Article 14¹ of the Fourth Geneva Convention relative to the Protection to Civilian Persons in Time of War, of August 12, 1949, States are allowed to set up hospital and safety zones in their territory in order to protect from the effects of war certain categories of persons who have to be specially looked after: the sick, children, aged persons, and so on. In this way, the Convention provides a humane method, the importance of which could not be over-estimated, for dealing to some extent with the grave problem of civilian protection.

The VIth Inter-American Red Cross Conference, which met at Mexico in October, 1951, underlined the urgency of considering the creation of such zones in its Xth Resolution, and recommended the National Red Cross Societies to get in touch on the subject with their Governments.

¹ The text of this Article is given in annex.

The recognition of safety zones by the adverse Party, which alone guarantees their immunity in law, is brought about by an agreement entered into by the interested States; Annex 1 to the Convention is a Draft Agreement which they may take as a model.¹

Such Agreement, on which depends recognition of the zones, cannot be concluded before a conflict actually begins, but the zones themselves may be set up in peacetime.

It would seem highly desirable that preparations should be made in peacetime for setting up safety zones: it is not during the first days of a war, when the administration is overwhelmed with other work, that a solution should be sought for the many problems raised by the organization, administration and supply of a zone, and the conditions of admission to it. The zones could no doubt be employed in peacetime as holiday centres, camps for those left homeless by disasters, and so on.

There is a preliminary stage of preparation which should now be undertaken in every country, namely, the investigation from which plans can be drawn up which will be ready for application whenever it is decided to actually establish safety zones. Only such investigation can ensure that the zones will be set up under the most favourable conditions, and it alone will show how far they are feasible in each country. The investigation can be carried out independently of the executive measures which would be required, and at little cost.

Article 14 of the Fourth Convention invites the International Committee of the Red Cross to lend its good offices in order to facilitate the institution of safety zones. It was in this spirit, and in the hope of speeding up matters, that the International Committee thought well to draw up the headings for a working plan, and these it now refers to the National Societies. This is a sphere in which the Societies could no doubt usefully assist their own governmental authorities.²

¹ The Draft is reproduced in the attached enclosure.

² In certain countries there are various groups whose object is to study and set up safety zones. The *Association Internationale des Lieux de Genève* with which the International Committee maintains contact, tries to guide these different groups and gives them its support.

The Committee is of course at the disposal of the National Societies for any assistance or advice they may require ; on the other hand, if the Societies would be good enough to let it have results of their investigations, the Committee could pass the information on and thus allow all Societies to have the benefit of what had been learned.

The scheme set out below is based on the principles contained in the Draft Agreement annexed to the Fourth Convention.¹ Although the Draft is not binding, and the interested States may have to modify it, it still remains that it was drawn up with care and later adopted by the 1949 Diplomatic Conference. There can thus be no doubt of its value. It is desirable that in creating zones, the rules which to some extent have already received the approval in principle of the adverse Party should be followed. They would most likely be accepted also in actual fact ; zones set up on different principles might be recognized only with very considerable difficulty.

FOR THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE
OF THE RED CROSS :

Leopold Boissier	Paul Ruegger
<i>Vice-President</i>	<i>President</i>
<i>President of the Legal Commission</i>	

¹ For further details reference may be made to a survey : " Hospital and Safety Zones ", published by the Committee in English, French, and Spanish. It includes a commentary on the Draft Agreement.

SUGGESTED SCHEME

1. Determine where hospital and safety zones or localities could be set up in each country which would conform, so far as possible, to the following conditions :
 - (a) be far removed and free from all military objectives, or large industrial or administrative establishments ;
 - (b) not be situated in areas which are very likely to have an importance from the point of view of national defence ;
 - (c) not have lines of communication (rail, road, or water) which would have to be used by the armed forces ;
 - (d) be thinly populated in relation to the possibilities of accommodation.

Localities are given places, of small area, which would generally contain housing accommodation. They would primarily be watering places and pleasure and health resorts having a large accommodation capacity in the form of hotels, hospitals and so on.¹ Huts might be constructed on the outskirts.

Zones would be much larger and might include one or more localities. The construction of huts in the open country, in mountaineous areas, or beside villages, might also be considered here.

2. Estimate what proportion of the resident population would have to leave the zone because their work has a relation to national defence.
3. Estimate the number of persons who could be given shelter in each zone, including those who could be put up with inhabitants.

¹ Localities containing many historical monuments or works of art might also be considered.

4. On the assumption that the rural population, being widespread, would thereby be sufficiently protected, decide what urban centres or areas would have to have part of their population evacuated.
5. In each such centre or area ¹, make a census of the following groups:
 - (a) children under fifteen ;
 - (b) mothers of children under seven ;
 - (c) expectant mothers ;
 - (d) persons over sixty-five ;
 - (e) the wounded, the sick, and invalids.
6. From the data obtained under items (1) and (5) above, and bearing in mind distance and available transport, decide what groups should be transported to each zone, and in what proportions.²

The separation of members of a family—a difficult matter even in wartime—will arise here, and require particular attention. The separation will probably be less distressing in the case of persons already more or less separated from their families such as the sick, those living in homes, school classes, and so on.

7. Draw up for each centre, preferably by district, a list of names and addresses of those who would have to be transported.
8. Have, in each centre or district, persons who could look after transport, including arrangements for administration, stewards, feeding, luggage, etc. Designate the responsible authority.

¹ As a first stage, a limited study could be made of a given centre, as, for example, the capital.

² The categories given under 5) represent more than 40% of the total population.

9. Investigate the available transport possibilities—rail, bus, car, ambulance, etc.
 10. Have persons in each safety zone who could get the zone ready and organize the accommodation (administration, medical personnel, supply, police, firemen, air-raid wardens). Appoint the responsible authority.
 11. Study the evacuation from the zone of the transit population (in hotels) and part of the resident population (see under 2). Make arrangements for them elsewhere.
 12. Study the need for constructing huts, providing essential services, approach roads, sewers, shelters, etc. Arrange for marking the zone.
 13. See where the necessary material (beds, blankets, utensils, etc.) can be found and how transported and installed.
 14. Study how the zone can be regularly supplied with drinking water, food, reserves, clothing, pharmaceutical products, fuel, etc.
 15. See how work could be found for at least part of the people given shelter, and how they could be integrated into the economic life of the zone and the country. Organize schools and recreation.
 16. Make provision for the eventuality of having to evacuate the persons given shelter in the zone and of having to reinstall them.
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ANNEX

I

EXTRACT FROM THE FOURTH GENEVA CONVENTION RELATIVE TO THE PROTECTION OF CIVILIAN PERSONS IN TIME OF WAR OF AUGUST 12, 1949

Hospital and Safety Zones and Localities

ARTICLE 14

In time of peace, the High Contracting Parties and, after the outbreak of hostilities, the Parties thereto, may establish in their own territory and, if the need arises, in occupied areas, hospital and safety zones and localities so organized as to protect from the effects of war, wounded, sick and aged persons, children under fifteen, expectant mothers and mothers of children under seven.

Upon the outbreak and during the course of hostilities, the Parties concerned may conclude agreements on mutual recognition of the zones and localities they have created. They may for this purpose implement the provisions of the Draft Agreement annexed to the present Convention, with such amendments as they may consider necessary.

The Protecting Powers and the International Committee of the Red Cross are invited to lend their good offices in order to facilitate the institution and recognition of these hospital and safety zones and localities.

II

DRAFT AGREEMENT RELATING TO HOSPITAL AND SAFETY ZONES AND LOCALITIES ANNEXED TO THE FOURTH GENEVA CONVENTION OF 1949

ARTICLE I

Hospital and safety zones shall be strictly reserved for the persons mentioned in Article 23 of the Geneva Convention for the Amelioration of the Condition of the Wounded and Sick in Armed Forces in the Field of August 12, 1949, and in Article 14 of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War of August 12, 1949, and for the personnel entrusted with the organ-

ization and administration of these zones and localities, and with the care of the persons therein assembled.

Nevertheless, persons whose permanent residence is within such zones shall have the right to stay there.

ARTICLE 2

No persons residing, in whatever capacity, in a hospital and safety zone shall perform any work, either within or without the zone, directly connected with military operations or the production of war material.

ARTICLE 3

The Power establishing a hospital and safety zone shall take all necessary measures to prohibit access to all persons who have no right of residence or entry therein.

ARTICLE 4

Hospital and safety zones shall fulfil the following conditions :

- (a) They shall comprise only a small part of the territory governed by the Power which has established them.
- (b) They shall be thinly populated in relation to the possibilities of accommodation.
- (c) They shall be far removed and free from all military objectives, or large industrial or administrative establishments.
- (d) They shall not be situated in areas which, according to every probability, may become important for the conduct of the war.

ARTICLE 5

Hospital and safety zones shall be subject to the following obligations :

- (a) The lines of communication and means of transport which they possess shall not be used for the transport of military personnel or material, even in transit.
- (b) They shall in no case be defended by military means.

ARTICLE 6

Hospital and safety zones shall be marked by means of oblique red bands on a white ground, placed on the buildings and outer precincts.

Zones reserved exclusively for the wounded and sick may be marked by means of the Red Cross (Red Crescent, Red Lion and Sun) emblem on a white ground.

They may be similarly marked at night by means of appropriate illumination.

ARTICLE 7

The Powers shall communicate to all the High Contracting Parties in peacetime or on the outbreak of hostilities, a list of the hospital and safety zones in the territories governed by them. They shall also give notice of any new zones set up during hostilities.

As soon as the adverse party has received the above-mentioned notification, the zone shall be regularly established.

If, however, the adverse party considers that the conditions of the present agreement have not been fulfilled, it may refuse to recognize the zone by giving immediate notice thereof to the Party responsible for the said zone, or may make its recognition of such zone dependent upon the institution of the control provided for in Article 8.

ARTICLE 8

Any Power having recognized one or several hospital and safety zones instituted by the adverse Party shall be entitled to demand control by one or more Special Commissions, for the purpose of ascertaining if the zones fulfil the conditions and obligations stipulated in the present agreement.

For this purpose, members of the Special Commissions shall at all times have free access to the various zones and may even reside there permanently. They shall be given all facilities for their duties of inspection.

ARTICLE 9

Should the Special Commissions note any facts which they consider contrary to the stipulations of the present agreement, they shall at once draw the attention of the Power governing the said zone to these facts, and shall fix a time limit of five days within which the matter should be rectified. They shall duly notify the Power who has recognized the zone.

If, when the time limit has expired, the Power governing the zone has not complied with the warning, the adverse Party may declare that it is no longer bound by the present agreement in respect of the said zone.

ARTICLE 10

Any Power setting up one or more hospital and safety zones, and the adverse Parties to whom their existence has been notified,

shall nominate or have nominated by the Protecting Powers or by other neutral Powers, persons eligible to be members of the Special Commissions mentioned in Articles 8 and 9.

ARTICLE 11

In no circumstances may hospital and safety zones be the object of attack. They shall be protected and respected at all times by the Parties to the conflict.

ARTICLE 12

In the case of occupation of a territory, the hospital and safety zones therein shall continue to be respected and utilized as such.

Their purpose may, however, be modified by the Occupying Power, on condition that all measures are taken to ensure the safety of the persons accommodated.

ARTICLE 13

The present agreement shall also apply to localities which the Powers may utilize for the same purposes as hospital and safety zones.

IDENTIFICATION OF CHILDREN

Circular No. 399

Geneva, April 15, 1952.

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

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Fourth Geneva Convention of August 12, 1949, relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War provided in Article 24, paragraph 3, that :

They (the Parties to the conflict) shall, furthermore endeavour to arrange for all children under twelve to be identified by the wearing of identity discs, or by some other means.

It is clear however that this provision, if it is to be effective in wartime, calls for careful study in peacetime, as well as the adoption of practical measures. Collaboration between the National Red Cross Societies and the Governments would appear to be indicated as a means of furthering such study and promoting the adoption of such measures as required.

In the course of the last World War the lack of means of identifying children, many of whom were too young to give any evidence themselves of their identity, had disastrous consequences. Thousands of children are today irrevocably deprived of a return to their families, and thousands of parents are left for ever with the grief of having lost them.

Meritorious efforts have been made, with which the International Committee of the Red Cross has been associated as far as its means allowed, to reassemble families ; and certain results have been attained in the face of great difficulties. The adoption of measures capable of avoiding the danger of such difficulties in the future can only be regarded as desirable.

It should be observed moreover that the text quoted from the Fourth Geneva Convention was signed with an eye to war.

But it might equally well be applicable in the case of public disasters such as floods, earthquakes or other catastrophes which attack populations, and are liable also to break up families.

The International Committee of the Red Cross is aware that certain Governments and National Red Cross Societies have already considered this serious problem ; but it believes that the enquiries which have been made and the various projects which have been forwarded can only gain by being brought together with a view to the selection of what is best among them.

Accordingly, if there are no objections, the Committee would be obliged if you would inform it as to :

- (1) The position of the matter in your country and, where study has already taken place, its results ;
- (2) whether, and in what way, your Society proposes to collaborate with your Government for the implementation in peacetime of Article 24, par. 3, of the Fourth Convention of 1949 ;
- (3) whether you have any objection to your own studies of the question being communicated to the other National Red Cross Societies.

Should Junior sections of National Red Cross Societies desire advice or help in framing a programme, either on their own initiative or in consultation with the education authorities of their country, they should make contact with the League of Red Cross Societies. The Junior Bureau of the League is studying this problem, and has already made reference to it in the series of four articles on the Geneva Conventions issued in 1950.

Believe me, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Yours very truly,

For the International Committee
of the Red Cross

Paul RUEGGER

President

CHRONICLE

RETROSPECTIVE: THE RED CROSS MEMORIAL

Let the facts speak for themselves !..

Under the title "The Red Cross Memorial", the *Bulletin international des Sociétés de secours aux militaires blessés*¹, in its issue of July 1882, describes, in the following words, the clay model of a group of statuary, a photograph of which had been submitted to the International Committee of the Red Cross by Richard Kissling, of Soleure, a famous artist who had been working in Rome for many years :

"... There are three statues in the group.² The first is of a war victim, a wounded soldier. His body is lifeless and his clothes torn ; he would surely die if the nurse who is kneeling beside him and bandaging his shoulder had not arrived promptly on the scene to recall him to life. His benefactress, who has a noble cast of countenance, has forgotten the danger all around her, and is putting her whole soul into her task. It is obvious that a higher power is granting her the strength needed to perform her work of love unflinchingly. Moreover, she knows that she is protected by the spirit of humanity which watches over her and can be recognised by the name inscribed on its girdle and by the Red Cross on its breast. This third figure, erect and slender, does not touch the ground, but rises above the other two. Its arms are stretched forward, as though to command submission from the combatants, and the look which it bends upon its protégés tells us clearly enough that its rôle is to remind all who are tempted to forget it of the respect due to misfortune, and to charity.

¹ A bulletin which is still published today under the title : "Bulletin international des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge."

² See inset which is reproduced here merely for information.

“ Thus all the elements of the work to which the artist wished to pay tribute are represented—on the one hand, the suffering caused by war which its purpose is to alleviate ; on the other, the two means which it utilizes—namely, the Red Cross Societies, whose work of mercy is well known, and the new legal principles proclaimed by the Geneva Convention.

“ We have nothing but praise for the way in which the scene of the soldier, and providence, in the form of a woman, has been represented. The sculptor has successfully avoided its realism, and has preserved all its poetical aspect. On the other hand, a few slight reservations might be made in regard to the allegorical figure presiding over the work ; but there is no need to go into them here, as they only concern minor details. Besides, the photograph at our disposal, which only shows the group from one angle, gives no more than an approximate idea of it, and does not, in our opinion, do it full justice.

“ Our readers are doubtless impatient to know by whom and why this splendid work has been created.

“ It is by the chisel of Mr. Richard Kissling, of Soleure, who has been living in Rome for the past twelve years, and has there made a name for himself. This gifted artist, whose earlier work had already brought him renown, doubtless considered that the Red Cross was a sufficiently fine, good and great a thing for him to dedicate a glorious memorial to it. He has produced a very successful creation under its inspiration, aided by his patriotism, for he must have been influenced by the fact that his native country was the cradle of that splendid institution. We sincerely hope that Mr. Kissling may be able to succeed in his plan and that a lasting reproduction of the fragile model he has made will preserve it for all time.

“ But the good will of the artist is not enough. A prosaic question of funds is holding him up, and will, it is feared, continue to do so for a long time to come unless some generous benefactor comes forward to solve the problem. The idea of an international subscription, as proposed by a newspaper who took up the matter before we did, might be a solution, but someone would have to take the initiative. In a letter which we have seen, Mr. Kissling expresses the wish that the memorial should be in Carrara

marble and on a large scale, and that it should be erected in Geneva, the only city where its presence would be fully justifiable. We are not against this suggestion, but it is obvious that neither the Genevese, nor the Swiss will take the initiative in vaunting a stage of progress which it was their privilege to promote."

The attention of the world was thus drawn to the question of the erection in Geneva of a memorial to the Red Cross; but it was the Third International Conference of Red Cross Societies, meeting in Geneva from September 1-6, 1884 on the occasion of the Twentieth anniversary of the Convention on the sick and wounded of armies in the field, which first mapped out a preliminary scheme.¹

On the proposal of Messrs. Hepke and Furley, Count Sérurier, Messrs. d'Oom, Hoor, Sheldon, Maggiorani, de Cazenove, Baraffio, Thomsen, Staaf, de Weech, Hass, Mappes, Tosi, Pretenderis-Typaldos, de Martens, Armstrong, Longmore, Schlesinger, Solomons and Ellissen Basso, and Miss Barton, the Third Conference, after discussing the matter, adopted the following Resolution:

"The Third International Conference, meeting on the occasion of the twentieth anniversary of the Geneva Convention, in this city, where the institution of the Red Cross came into being and was sanctioned by international law, strongly supports the plan to erect a memorial in Geneva and recommends that the Central Committees of all nations cooperate in the execution of that memorial from the model by Mr. Richard Kissling, Member of the Conference."

In its issue of July 1885, the *Bulletin* recapitulated the work entrusted to the International Committee of the Red Cross by the Conference of 1884, and gave the following information concerning it:

"Our readers will doubtless recall the recommendation made by the Conference of 1884 in regard to a memorial to commemorate the foundation of the Red Cross and the Geneva Convention (See 60th *Bulletin*, Vol. XV, p. 207). The necessary

¹ See "Troisième Conférence internationale des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge" *Compte Rendu*, Geneva, 1885.

measures to carry out that wish having been left to the International Committee, the latter set to work, but has hitherto made no public appeal as a certain amount of preparatory work was necessary.

" The clay model submitted to the Conference by Mr. Kissling, although designated to the International Committee as a starting point, had, nevertheless been the subject of some reservations from the artistic point of view, and these had to be taken into consideration. The model had therefore to be examined by experts, and the artist had to be consulted with regard to the modifications to be carried out. There was also the question of the choice of a suitable site in the city of Geneva. Lastly, it was indispensable to have an approximate estimate of the funds required for the work.

" A commission of experts, including representatives of the municipal authorities has therefore been set up to study the question from these various angles, and it is only when that body has made a preliminary report to the International Committee, that the latter will be able to place the matter in the hands of the Central Committees. If mention is made of it today, it is merely to remind the public that the matter is being examined, and that the recommendation by the Conference has not been forgotten by those responsible for carrying it out..."

In 1887, the International Committee of the Red Cross at last submitted to the Fourth Conference, held in Karlsruhe on September 19, a detailed report drawn up by Lieutenant-Colonel Camille Favre, member of the International Committee, in which he stated the facts in all objectivity.¹ The report included the following passage :

"... The International Committee has several problems to solve

- (1) What was the best site in the city of Geneva for the proposed memorial.

¹ Cf. *Bulletin international des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge*, July 1887, pp. 101-107.

- (2) What sum would be required to erect the memorial designated by Mr. Kissling, or a similar memorial, on a site chosen?
 - (3) To what extent was the model submitted by Mr. Kissling acceptable?
 - (4) How could the cost of the memorial be met?
- (1) *What is the best site in the city of Geneva for the proposed memorial?*

"The whole financial aspect of the undertaking depends upon the choice of the site. The Commission was greatly embarrassed from the outset. The proposed memorial could be planned either as a simple group of statuary, to be erected on a modest site without any monumental character, or, on the other hand, as part of an imposing project which would attract attention.

"The Commission, with the approval of the International Committee, cast its vote for the second proposal, for three reasons.

In the first place, the Commission felt that it should submit a complete study of the question to the Red Cross Societies. If the Conference so decided, it would always be possible to revert to a simpler scheme and to projects of more modest proportions.

"Secondly, the Commission felt that a memorial erected in commemoration of the foundation of the Red Cross by all the Societies bearing that name or with funds contributed by the Powers, ought to have the character of a monument.

"Lastly, having examined the various available sites, the only one which appeared to deserve consideration by the Conference would require the monumental treatment which seemed desirable.

"Needless to say, our study should be considered as provisional, and in a way *theoretical*, and we are fully prepared to modify it, if the Conference considers we have gone too far.

"With these considerations in mind, our choice has fallen

on the *Promenade du Pin*, a high terrace built on the old fortifications of Geneva. If the avenues surrounding it are disregarded, the terrace forms a rectangle 82 metres long by 66 metres wide. The memorial would be placed facing south, at the end of a cross inscribed within the rectangle, and surrounded by an architectural motif the height of which would depend on circumstances. This motif is necessary on account of the size of the site and also for the sake of economy, for it would enable the dimensions of the statue to be reduced. The latter, one quarter or one half larger than life size, would stand out against a background of greenery. In this setting, marble, although relatively expensive, should be used rather than bronze. The architectural motif would be low, if the statue was very high ; and high if the statue was lower.

To fit in with the project, the terrace would have to be cleared of its trees, at least to a great extent, and the ground levelled and arranged in steps descending towards the south. This latter operation, which would be fairly expensive, is absolutely necessary, since the southern aspect is at present surmounted by a sort of mound which would have to disappear.

This is the project which we have tried to show in the sketches we propose to send to the Central Committees.

It should be added that the Administrative Council of the City of Geneva is prepared, in principle, to assign this site to the proposed memorial, but reserves the right to examine the final plans. The project must be submitted for approval to the Municipal Council and the Council of State of the Republic and Canton of Geneva..."

Finally, Lieutenant-Colonel Camille Favre asked the Conference the following questions :

(1) Did the Karlsruhe Conference confirm the recommendation of the Conference of 1884, that a Red Cross memorial should be erected in Geneva ?

(2) How much money should be spent on the project ?

(3) Were the Central Committees prepared to take steps in their respective countries to collect the funds required ?

(4) Was the Conference prepared to open a competition for the execution of a group of statuary?

The Karlsruhe Conference (1887) did not confirm the decision taken at the Conference held in Geneva (1884).

The opinion expressed by M. de Knesebeck during the debate on the proposal to erect a Red Cross memorial met with general agreement and the Conference gave a negative answer to the first question raised in the International Committee's report.

M. de Knesebeck said, in particular, "that the real memorial to the Red Cross was the enduring gratitude in the hearts of war victims."

Thus, after 70 years, the problem of the erection of a Red Cross memorial has not yet been solved.

L.D.