



REVUE
INTERNATIONALE
DE LA
CROIX-ROUGE

SUPPLEMENT

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INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

SUNDRY ACTIVITIES

News Items

Competition in Arabic. — *With a view to stimulating interest in Arab countries—especially in intellectual circles and among members of the National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies — in the principles and humanitarian action of the Red Cross, the International Committee has organised, with the co-operation of the League, a competition in connection with the ICRC broadcasts in Arabic.*

Those taking part are required to send an essay to Geneva on one of the following seven subjects:

- (1) The humanitarian idea of the Red Cross and the Red Crescent in the Arab world.*
- (2) The principles of the Red Cross/Red Crescent in religion, moral science and philosophy.*
- (3) How can members of the Junior Red Cross/Red Crescent help to solve the essential problems of our times on the local, national and international levels?*
- (4) What does the Red Cross (or the Red Crescent) mean to you? What do you expect to receive from this institution? What can it expect to receive from you?*
- (5) The Red Cross—or the Red Crescent—an important factor of “rapprochement” between peoples.*

- (6) *The importance of the humanitarian rôle of the professional nurse or voluntary aid of the Red Cross|Red Crescent in society.*
- (7) *Personal experiences or anecdotes relating to the idea of the Red Cross|Red Crescent.*

Some very fine prizes will be awarded for this competition. The winner of the first prize will be the guest for two weeks, of the ICRC and the League. The ICRC will organise the winner's journey by Swissair and his stay in Geneva. The other prizes include eight gold watches (for men or women), presented by the firm Ernest Borel, and two radio sets presented by Phillips A.G.

The National Societies in the Arab countries have duly informed their members of this competition which has also been given publicity in the Press. Moreover the Minister of Education in Jordan has issued a circular letter, through the Inspector of the Department of Education for the Jerusalem and Jericho areas, inviting members of the teaching profession and officials of the various administrations to take part in the competition.

The competition has aroused great interest among the public and the ICRC has already received a number of enquiries from persons wishing to take part. It may be recalled that participants can apply to our headquarters in Geneva to obtain more detailed information on the competition which will come to a close on March 31, 1961.

Furthermore, the weekly broadcasts in Arabic by Mr. I. Zreikat are being extended for thirty minutes in connection with the competition. These broadcasts are transmitted on Saturdays from 6 to 6.30 p.m. (GMT) over the 16.87 m. wavelength (to North Africa) and over 19.59 m. and 13.89 m. wavelengths (to the Near East).

Illustrated Handbook of the Geneva Conventions. — *During the 80th session of the Executive Committee of the League, discussions took place with representatives of National Societies of English-speaking countries—in particular with Mr. I.D.M. Reid, Assistant Secretary-General of the British Red Cross—on the subject of the publication in English of the illustrated Handbook on the Geneva Conventions, edited jointly by the ICRC and the League in accord-*

ance with a resolution of the last International Red Cross Conference (New Delhi, 1957).

The purpose of this Handbook is to further the dissemination of the Geneva Conventions by making the perusal of the texts easier for Red Cross instructors as well as professors, teachers, lecturers, etc.

The matter of the English edition is now being submitted to the Red Cross Societies of English-speaking countries and an agreement concerning the number of copies, and the cost, of the Handbook will be concluded between the ICRC, the League and the National Societies before the end of the year.

Visits to the ICRC headquarters. — From the beginning of August until early in November, the ICRC had the pleasure of receiving the following visits:

Dr. Senen E. Gonzalez, veteran member of the Mexican Red Cross; Mrs. Vela Lukanova, the new Permanent Representative of Bulgaria to the international organisations in Geneva; the Chancellor of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta, Don Enzo di Napoli Rampola, Prince of Rasuttano, accompanied by the delegate to international organisations in Geneva; the Ambassador Mr. A. Koch and Mr. Pierre Cartier, delegate to Switzerland; Mr. Ali Aboulfathi, President of the Tabriz Branch of the Red Lion and Sun of Iran; Mrs. Inwood of the Secretariat of the Australian Junior Red Cross; Dr. Stoeckel, Director of the Mehlen First Aid School of the Red Cross of the German Federal Republic; the Deputy-Mayor of Nantes and Mrs. Orion, accompanied by the Sub-Prefect of Lorient, Mrs. Jaquet and Mr. Fernand Cottier, Mayor of Geneva; Miss D. Rudolf, a nurse of the Yugoslav Red Cross; Mrs. Labour, President of the Franconville (S. & O.) Committee of the French Red Cross; H.E. Mr. Katsuzo Okumura, Ambassador of Japan in Berne; Mrs. Attia Zeinab, welfare worker of the Red Crescent of the United Arab Republic; Mr. L.C.A. Ficq, Assistant-Officer of the First Aid Section in Roermond of the Netherlands Red Cross, and Mrs. Ficq van Crugten, member of the Limburg Committee; Colonel Nestic, M.O., Colonel Pritivic, M.O. and Major Protic, members of the Yugoslav Army Medical Service, accompanied by their wives, and Major O. Mühlberg,

Mr. Sager and Mr. Schwarz of the Swiss Army Medical Service; Miss Else Blickmann, Sister-Tutor at the Cologne Nursing School of the Red Cross of the German Federal Republic; Mrs. Sophie Trizid, member of the Port Sudan Branch of the Sudanese Red Crescent; Monsignor Cayer, Apostolic Vicar of Alexandria; Dr. J.S. McKenzie-Pollock, United Nations Special Representative in the Congo.

During the same period numerous groups visited the ICRC headquarters, in particular members of the American Junior Red Cross, students of the Geneva Summer School, members of the Californian Branch of the Young Men's Christian Associations, foreign students from Leiden University (Netherlands), student nurses from « La Source » (Swiss Red Cross Nursing School), several groups of staff members of the American Red Cross Centres in Europe, 25 journalists from countries of the European Free Trade Association, travel agents from Japan, Pakistan and the Philippines, Italian students winners of a competition organised by the United Nations Association in Italy, student nurses of the French Red Cross Nursing School, Colmar, student nurses of the Swiss Red Cross Senior Nursing School (Chailly-sur-Lausanne), a group of Congolese medical students on their way to France to continue their studies under the auspices of WHO, members of the Zurich Section of the Swiss Red Cross, and a Canadian medical team passing through Geneva on its way back from the Congo.

The International Committee was particularly pleased to welcome representatives of National Red Cross Societies taking part in the meetings of the Executive Committee of the League in Geneva who wished to discuss matters of common interest with the directorate of the ICRC.

International Council of Nurses. — *Miss Hélène Nussbaum has been appointed to the post of Secretary-General of the International Council of Nurses on the retirement of Miss Daisy Bridges after the Quadrennial Congress of the I.C.N. in April 1961. This appointment marks a further stage in the very successful career of Miss Nussbaum who has always shown great competence and devotion to duty in carrying out the tasks assigned to her.*

The relief actions entrusted to Miss Nussbaum by various international organisations included her mission to Greece on behalf of the ICRC, from 1951 to 1953, to assist political detainees and earthquake victims.

Miss Nussbaum, also worked with Miss L. Odier, Member of the International Committee, until the end of 1954.

International Tracing Service. — *The agreement signed on June 6, 1955 whereby the administration of the International Tracing Service in Arolsen (Germany) was entrusted to the International Committee of the Red Cross, expired on May 5, 1960. As the tasks of the ITS continue to be important and numerous, the parties concerned opened negotiations with the ICRC for the renewal of the agreement. These negotiations having reached a favourable conclusion, the ICRC will continue to deal with the administration and direction of the ITS for a further period of 5 years, as from May 5, 1960.*

The ITS is at present the most important centre of information on persons deported, displaced or missing in Germany and countries occupied by the German forces during the Second World War.

Executive Committee of the International Red Cross Museum. — *In compliance with the request of the Italian Red Cross for the ICRC to be represented on the Executive Committee of the International Red Cross Museum, the International Committee has appointed Mr. Jean S. Pictet, Director for General Affairs.*

The Museum is lodged in Longhi Palace, Castiglione delle Stiviere, presented to the Italian Red Cross by the Commune of Castiglione in February 1960.

The Executive Committee, presided over by General Guido Ferri, President of the Italian Red Cross, includes also a representative of the League, Mr. Henrik Beer, Secretary-General, Mr. Edoardo Rocchetti and Mr. Elfisio Nonis (respectively Director for General Affairs and Director of the Foreign Relations Department of the Italian Red Cross), Mr. Enzo Boletti, Mayor of Castiglione, Mr. Bernard Gagnebin, Assistant-Director of the Public and University Library of Geneva, Mr. Carlo Sigurta, and Mr. Giu-

seppè Norlenghi, President of the Committee of the Mantua Branch of the Italian Red Cross.

The ICRC is glad to have this opportunity of contributing towards the institution of this Museum which is intended to make known the origin of the Red Cross movement and its development throughout the world.

The Refugee Problem. — *The ICRC was represented by Mr. H. Coursier, Member of the Legal Department, at the General Meeting of the European and World Associations for the Study of the Refugee Problem (AER/AWR) held this year in Weggis (Lucerne) in September and presided over by Professor M. Schätzel of Bonn.*

Mr. Coursier submitted a report on the organisation of the International Centre for the Co-ordination of Legal Assistance created under the auspices of the Conference of Non-Governmental Organisations interested in Migration. The representative of the International Catholic Migration Commission, Dr. Stark of Geneva, gave an account of the Congress of this institution held in Ottawa last summer. The international study groups working in conjunction with the AER and AWR associations submitted reports on their work which were duly approved.

In addition, the Editor of the review "Intégration", under the patronage of the Prince François-Joseph de Liechtenstein Foundation for Refugees (Hansen Institute-Vaduz) informed the meeting of the work accomplished by the two associations since their creation about ten years ago.

Relief Actions. — *Algeria: In November the ICRC sent to the French Red Cross in Algiers 35 tons of powdered milk and 3 tons of soup extract representing a total value of 175,000 Swiss francs. These foodstuffs, intended for the resettled Algerian population, will be distributed by the mobile teams of the French Red Cross in the presence of a delegate of the ICRC.*

The ICRC also despatched 2,000 rubber boots and 5,000 packets of cigarettes for a total value of 8,500 Swiss francs. The cigarettes will be distributed at the New Year to patients in hospitals.

In addition, the International Committee has made available to its delegate in Algiers, Mr. Vust, clothing valued at 16,000

Swiss francs and 15,000 packets of cigarettes (value 7,500 Swiss francs) intended for persons interned, under detention or in assigned residence centres. These supplies will be distributed in January by representatives of the ICRC who will at that time be visiting places of detention in Algeria.

Laos: following the disturbances in this country the ICRC sent to the Laotian Red Cross, through its delegate in Saigon, Mr. A.M. Leuenberger, three surgical kits for a total value of 4,000 Swiss francs.

Morocco: with a view to assisting in the work undertaken by the women's centre set up in Marrakech-Medina, the ICRC sent to this centre in September 17 typewriters and 7 sewing machines lent to it for this purpose.

During November the ICRC sent to Mr. C. Vautier, delegate in Morocco, 5,000 packets of cigarettes (value 2,500 fr.) which will be distributed in various hospital establishments at the New Year.

The ICRC and Algeria. — *A further mission of the International Committee of the Red Cross has left for Algeria, for the purpose of organising the distribution of milk and soup to women and children in the resettlement centres. These relief supplies, made available through donations collected in Switzerland, will be distributed (in the presence of delegates of the ICRC) by the mobile teams of the French Red Cross which have been assisting the resettled population for over a year.*

Furthermore, with the approval of the French Government, another series of visits to places of detention in Algeria will take place in mid-January.

ICRC General Delegation in the Near East. — *Mr. D. de Traz, who has held the post of General-Delegate of the ICRC in the Near East since 1955, has been obliged, owing to his state of health, to return to Geneva for a long treatment.*

After examining the various activities still pending in the Near East, the ICRC came to the conclusion that permanent representation in this part of the world was no longer essential

and the post of General-Delegate has therefore been abolished. The work still in hand, and contacts with the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in the Near East, will continue to be dealt with in future by occasional and temporary missions sent from Geneva.

The activities of the ICRC Delegation in the United Arab Republic will, however, be continued.

ICRC Delegation in Cairo. — *Mr. E. Müller, Head of the Cairo Delegation, who had been called to Geneva to discuss various matters, returned to his post on October 21 last.*

After examining Mr. Müller's report, the ICRC decided to terminate its assistance to stateless persons in Egypt from December 31, 1960. This aid, started immediately after the Suez conflict, has enabled several thousands of stateless persons to be received and to resettle in American and European countries, mainly in Brazil, the United States, France, etc.

From January 1, 1961, a small delegation composed of Mr. Müller, a secretary and a few local staff members will be maintained in Cairo.

Repatriation of Koreans resident in Japan¹. — *From the beginning of the repatriation operations until the end of October 1960, some 46,000 Korean nationals have left Japan for the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.*

On account of the number of registrations for departure, it has not been possible to finish the repatriation operations within twelve months—the original time-limit agreed to by the National Societies concerned—and the Japanese Red Cross and the Red Cross of the Democratic Republic of Korea have therefore agreed to continue the repatriations for another year, that is to say until November 12, 1961.

Philippine medical teams in Laos. — *At the request of the Philippine Red Cross, the ICRC approached the Laotian Red Cross in October last to obtain news of Philippine medical teams posted to various parts of Laos and working in connection with the "Fraternité"*

¹ See *Revue internationale*, September, 1960.

technical assistance programme. Events in Laos have prevented the members of the teams from keeping in contact with the Philippines.

With the help of the Laotian Red Cross the ICRC was able to give satisfactory news of these teams to the National Society in Manila. Furthermore, the Laotian Red Cross lent its assistance to facilitate the return to Vientiane of a medical team formerly stationed at Sam Neua in North Laos.

Meeting of the Executive Committee of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees' Programme.—*The ICRC was represented, as an observer, by Mr. H. Coursier, Member of the Legal Department, at this meeting held in Geneva from October 6 to 13.*

Dr. Auguste Lindt, the High Commissioner for Refugees, who, as is known, has resigned from his office to take up his post of Ambassador of Switzerland in Washington, presided over the Committee for the last time. Most of the Government representatives present took advantage of the occasion to express their appreciation of the great success achieved by Dr. Lindt in carrying out his mission on behalf of refugees; special reference was made to the remarkable success of World Refugee Year.

During the meeting a ceremony was held in the Council Chamber of the Palais des Nations for the presentation of the Nansen Medal to the four Englishmen who launched the idea of World Refugee Year.

The Tracing Service in Leopoldville.—*As stated in our November issue, the ICRC set up a Tracing Service at its Leopoldville Delegation in August and appointed Mr. Ed. L. Jaquet, Assistant-Head of the Agency Services, for these duties.*

Immediately on his arrival in the Congo the delegate took all possible steps to recruit local correspondents in the various provinces to assist in tracing missing persons.

The enquiries received at the Leopoldville office—either direct or, as in most cases, through the Central Agency in Geneva—concern Belgian nationals or persons of other nationalities who were established in the Congo as civil servants, doctors, technicians, etc. and missionaries of various faiths. The Leopoldville office is also

engaged in searches for Congo nationals who are no longer in touch with their families.

Working in close co-operation with the Central Agency, the Leopoldville office has dealt with over a thousand cases of which two hundred have given positive results. Needless to say, it has met and is still meeting with great difficulties owing to the break down of communications in some parts of the Congo and constant shifting of the persons sought; some in fact have already changed their place of residence several times, either for personal reasons or on account of their work.

In October Mr. Jaquet visited several Congo provinces to discuss the co-ordination of the work in progress with the Delegation correspondents.

Departure of a delegate. — *A delegate of the ICRC—Mr. Claude Pilloud, Assistant-Director—has been sent to Katanga.*

Mr. Pilloud left Geneva for Elisabethville on November 11, his mission being to examine all the humanitarian problems which have arisen in that area.

The Geneva Conventions in Pictures. — *The ICRC recently published a new edition of this booklet which illustrates the essential provisions of the Geneva Conventions of 1949. Each picture is accompanied by a short commentary in nine languages, namely French, English, Chinese, Russian, Japanese, Arabic, Spanish, German and Hindi. The first edition, published in 1957, met with great success.*

In view of the events in the Congo, the ICRC has taken the initiative of publishing a special edition in which Lingala (the most widely spoken dialect in Leopoldville Province and in the Congo armed forces) has been substituted for Hindi.

Subscriptions for the booklet can be taken at the ICRC headquarters, Geneva, at the price of Sw. Fr. 0.70 per booklet until February 28, 1961; after that date the cost will be Sw. Fr. 1.00.

Celebration of the Red Cross Centenary. — *The preparations for the festival have followed a normal course since August last. The group dealing with the study of the programme for Commemoration Day held meetings on August 16 and September 6, presided over by Professor A. von Albertini, President of the Swiss Red Cross,*

and drew up a complete provisional programme. The Sub-Committee for the Exhibition presided over by Mr. M. Bodmer, Vice-President of the ICRC, met on September 13 to examine the replies to the questionnaire sent to the National Societies, to make a general plan of the exhibition and to draft recommendations to be submitted to the Committee for the Commemoration of the Red Cross Centenary. The latter held its sixth meeting, presided over by Mr. F. Siordet, on September 20 last. It approved the suggestions put forward by the group dealing with the study of the Commemoration Day Programme and by the Sub-Committee of the Exhibition; it was decided that steps should be taken immediately to reserve the Geneva "Palais des Expositions" and to submit a proposal to the Committee for the XXth Conference for the institution of a joint Commissariat to ensure a closer co-ordination of the two celebrations. It also decided to set up two further study groups—one to deal with financial matters and the other to draw up a programme for a Press campaign in connection with the Centenary Celebrations.

The Centenary was referred to during the sixth plenary meeting of the League's "Commission for the Red Cross Centenary".

The ICRC in Katanga. — On October 26, 1960, the International Committee of the Red Cross despatched by an aircraft placed at the disposal of the Red Cross by the United Nations an important consignment of milk and sugar bound for Manono (Katanga).

These relief supplies were distributed by a delegate of the ICRC to the civilian population in North Katanga affected by the disturbances prevailing in this area for the past few months. It is becoming more and more difficult to make supplies of food and medicaments available to these people. Two days later, and again by air, the delegate of the ICRC accompanied a load of five tons of maize and flour sent from Luluabourg to Manono and Kamina.

During these first distributions of foodstuffs in Katanga, the delegate of the ICRC observed that there was a serious shortage of medicaments.

The ICRC is now endeavouring, in co-operation with the United Nations representatives, to obtain emergency supplies of medicaments and to take them immediately by air to Manono and Kamina.

THE KING AND QUEEN OF THAILAND
VISIT THE ICRC

On Monday, November 28, 1960, the International Committee of the Red Cross had the honour of receiving the visit of Their Majesties the King and Queen of Thailand. Her Majesty is President of the Thai Red Cross Society.

Among the persons of their suite were H.E. Phya Srivisar, King's Counsel and General Secretary of the Thai Red Cross, H.S.H. Prince Wongsanuvat Devakul, Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, T.E. Mr. Chitti Sucharitakul, Ambassador of Thailand in Switzerland and Madame Sucharitakul.

Their Majesties were received at the ICRC headquarters by Mr. Leopold Boissier, President, accompanied by several of his colleagues and members of the staff. Talks were given on the International Committee's mission, principles and present activities after which Their Majesties spent some time in the Central Tracing Agency and were shown the card-indexes.

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