



REVUE INTERNATIONALE DE LA CROIX-ROUGE

SUPPLEMENT

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DEATH OF MR. MAX HUBER

Mr. Max Huber, President of the International Committee of the Red Cross from 1928 to 1944, and since then Honorary President, died at Zurich on January 1 in his 85th year.

His death is a great loss to the International Committee of the Red Cross as a whole and this is not the time, when we are overcome by the shock of his passing, to recall his great work and all he represented for those who had the privilege of working with him. In the next issue of the Revue internationale we shall recall the life, guiding principles and actions of one who, for a quarter of a century, left an enduring mark on the humanitarian work accomplished during one of the most dramatic and difficult periods of human history. Let us merely say that Mr. Max Huber will ever remain the symbol of a leader who was respected and followed with trust and confidence.

He was animated by a pure and lofty ideal and his clear vision enabled him to see beyond the events of the day. With a quick appreciation of the essentials of relations between States and between individuals, he saw at once the duty which by the unfolding of events, men's weakness or arrogant and short-lived doctrines, required to be fulfilled.

By his personality, his generous nature and strong convictions, he gave to an unsettled world an example of moral strength and deep regard for justice. We can never be grateful enough to him for having personified the Red Cross, the fundamental principles of which he understood and constantly expressed. For those who remain his example will always be a spur to action and a source of faith in the future.

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE
OF THE RED CROSS

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

NEW YEAR MESSAGE

As in previous years, the annual message by Mr. Leopold Boissier, President of the ICRC, has been recorded by the ICRC Broadcasting and Television Office and sent to fifty-six national broadcasting systems all over the world, in ten different languages, for broadcasting at the close of 1959. The text is as follows:

As December draws to a close, which of us does not look forward with a hope to the coming year? The men who govern the great nations promise us a new era in which, little by little, rivalry will lessen, and friendship among men will grow, dispelling uncertainty and fear.

Can we believe in these promises? Is it really intended that all attempts at supremacy will be abandoned, enabling ideas as well as mankind to co-exist without restriction in mutual understanding, without clashing or fighting by ruse or by force?

The International Committee of the Red Cross cannot answer such questions. It has, however, a message to give. In the year which is now ending it has brought assistance to human beings of every race, of all religions and of all ideologies. It has met them in prisons, internment camps, hospitals, in the mountains and in remote places—wherever men were suffering for the cause they had upheld at the risk of their lives.

The delegates of the International Committee have often met with despair or bitterness. More often, however, they have

found that, in spite of everything, all men believe that over and above the strife in which they are taking part, there is—more or less clearly expressed—a principle of humanity and fellowship which will prevail some day. This belief, this conviction is constantly growing and the Governments will have to take account of it if they wish to achieve a lasting peace. Henceforth nothing durable can be attained without the support of human conscience.

One hundred years ago on the battlefield of Solferino, Henry Dunant launched his lone revolt against the abandonment of the wounded and dying. Today the universal authority of the International Committee is an established fact and the National Red Cross Societies have nearly 127 million members.

Peace is like the Red Cross: everyone must believe in it. As I have said before, it is a matter of faith.

SUNDRY ACTIVITIES

News Items

A visit to the Tracing Bureau of the German Red Cross in Munich. — *The directors of the Red Cross of the German Federal Republic were good enough to invite Mr. P. Jequier, head of the Agency Services, and some staff members of the German Section of the Central Agency, to visit one of this Society's two principal Tracing Bureaux, in Munich.*

Mr. Jequier and the members of his staff were cordially received in Munich on November 22, 1959 by Dr. Wagner, Director General of the German Red Cross Tracing Bureaux and Doctor Pasewaldt, Director of the Munich Bureau.

This bureau is engaged in a considerable task and has made a large collection of files. Its central card-index contains over 28 million cards concerning military personnel or civilians of German nationality and some foreign nationals, i.e. former civilian workers or aliens enrolled in the German armed forces. These cards reflect the unceasing flow of enquiries to the German Red Cross and the information on missing persons collected by this Society after much patient and careful searching.

The Munich Bureau has also made an index of all German military personnel missing on the Eastern Front. In order to undertake the systematic questioning of the missing men's comrades, it prepared in its own printing works a series of leaflets for each regiment divided into sections, each section containing a photograph of a missing person and his name, first name, place

and date of birth, rank, profession and the place and date of his disappearance.

Voluntary workers of the German Red Cross visit former combatants to give them the leaflet concerning the missing men of their regiment. The leaflets, and the photographs in particular, help to revive memory and make it possible to collect valuable information on the missing.

The preparation of these thousands of leaflets, which when assembled will form a collection of 121 volumes, is making good progress; 250 of the 500 workers at the Munich Bureau are engaged in this vast undertaking.

Needless to say it was most interesting for Mr. Jequier and his staff members to have a close view of the activities of the Munich Tracing Bureau and the opportunity of discussing with the directors various matters in connection with work carried out by the German Red Cross and the Central Agency in close co-operation.

International Committee for the World Refugee Year. — This Committee, constituted by a number of non-governmental organisations concerned with assistance to refugees, of which the joint presidents are Mr. Charles H. Jordan (American Joint Distribution Committee) and Mr. Elfan Rees (Commission of the Churches on International Affairs) held its fourth meeting on November 17, at the Palais des Nations, Geneva. It was presided over by H. E. Mr. F. K. Gökay, Ambassador of Turkey in Berne, President of the European Association for the Study of Refugee Problems.

During this meeting various speakers described the work of their respective institutions in connection with the World Refugee Year. In his speech the President recalled the considerable work done in Turkey for many years past for the resettlement of refugee nationals. Speeches were also made by Mr. P. Schneiter, Director of the National Refugee Service of the Council of Europe, and Mr. R. Schaeffer, representing the League of Red Cross Societies, who recalled the League's work in Morocco and Tunisia in behalf of Algerian refugees.

The ICRC was represented at this meeting by Mr. H. Coursier, of the Legal Department.

A mission of the ICRC in the German Federal Republic. — *In the course of his mission to the German Federal Republic at the end of October, Mr. H. G. Beckh, delegate of the International Committee, visited the Red Cross of the German Federal Republic in Bonn. He discussed with some of the heads of this National Society—in particular Mr. Schloegel, Secretary-General, Mr. Rittgen, Assistant Secretary-General, and Mr. J. Leusch of the Tracing Service and the Reunion of Families Section—various questions concerning activities of common interest to the ICRC and the German Red Cross.*

With regard to assistance to political detainees, the delegate of the ICRC had further interviews at the Federal Ministry of Justice in Bonn. He also visited Bonn Prison and spoke without witnesses with nine political prisoners held in this establishment. He saw that the persons under detention enjoyed all the facilities granted by the regulations for the treatment of prisoners.

Mr. Beckh also went to Karlsruhe, where he again had an interview with the Attorney General of the Federal Republic, Mr. Güde.

In response to an invitation from the "Volksbund für Deutsche Kriegsgräberfürsorge" Mr. Beckh went to Kassel to meet the directors of this association.

Visit to the ICRC. — *The visitors whom the ICRC had the pleasure of receiving during the autumn included the new Permanent Representative in Geneva of the German Democratic Republic, Mr. Walter Beling, accompanied by his predecessor, Mr. J. Zimmering, and the Deputy Permanent Delegate of the United States in Geneva, Mr. Charles H. Owsley.*

Mr. Mohamed Ereksoussi, Imam of the Islam community in Geneva, paid a visit to the ICRC headquarters.

The International Committee was also very pleased to meet various representatives of Red Cross Societies who were passing through Geneva, including Mrs. R. Kattaneh, Member of the Central Committee of the Lebanese Red Cross and President of the Lebanese Junior Red Cross, Dr. T. Calasanz, Manager of the Philippine Red Cross, Dr. Chaloen Puranananda, Director of the Medical Division of the Thai Red Cross and his wife, Mrs. Dorothy

M. Spring, Director of the South African Junior Red Cross, and Mrs. K. Morton Ollivier, former President of the New Zealand Junior Red Cross.

Mr. J. C. Margadant, the new head of the Information Department of the Netherlands Red Cross, made a study-visit to the ICRC headquarters during a short stay in Geneva. He was thus able to collect information on the International Committee's activities and had several interviews with the directorate and heads of sections.

Miss Ph. Friend, future Matron of the London Hospital, accompanied by Miss H. Nussbaum of the Swiss Nurses Association, visited the ICRC.

Among the collective visits to the various ICRC sections, mention may be made of a group of some fifteen representatives of travelling agencies from West Germany, who were accompanied by Mr. Pauly and Mr. Hauber, Assistant Permanent Delegates in Geneva of the German Federal Republic.

The Council of the ICEM. — *The Council of the Intergovernmental Committee on European Migration (ICEM) met in Geneva from November 12 to 21. During this particularly active meeting, which was presided over by Mr. Monod, Delegate of France, the Council examined the operational plan and the budget of the ICEM, and the estimate of this organisation's expenditure for 1960. It approved the report of the Executive Committee on the 13th Meeting and handed over the regulations for future ICEM budgets to be studied by this Committee. It granted membership of the ICEM to the Republic of Ecuador.*

The discussions held were of great interest and outlined the activities of the ICEM, the representatives of which made reference on several occasions to the useful co-operation of non-governmental organisations in their work.

The ICRC was represented on this occasion by Mr. R. Gallopin, Executive Director, with Mr. H. G. Beckh and Mr. H. Coursier as deputies.

Liaison Committee of the N.G.O. interested in Migration. — *A meeting of this Committee was held on November 18 at the ICRC*

headquarters. It made a special study of the draft statutes of the International Centre for Legal Aid, on the basis of the report submitted by the Rapporteur, Mr. H. Elfenbein (American Joint Distribution Committee).

Distributions of Relief Supplies. — Algeria: In October the International Committee sent relief supplies to its delegate in Algiers consisting of one thousand articles of clothing (under-clothing and socks). These gift supplies, valued at 850,000 Algerian francs, were to be distributed to political internees and detainees.

The ICRC also sent 20,000 packets of cigarettes to the French Red Cross Committee in Algiers which will deal with the distribution in the course of its relief work in hospitals and dispensaries.

Morocco: In December the International Committee sent 5,000 packets of cigarettes to its delegate in Casablanca for distribution to stateless refugees.

Italy: In November last the International Committee sent various relief supplies, mostly clothing, to the Italian Red Cross. These gift supplies, valued at 9,000 Swiss francs, were to be distributed to Italian nationals repatriated from North Africa, in particular Tunisia.

Japan: In order to help the victims of the typhoon "Vera", last September the International Committee asked its delegate in Tokyo to hand over a gift of 22,000 Swiss francs to the Japanese Red Cross for this purpose.

Thailand: During the past months the ICRC has spent 2,000 Swiss francs for the purchase of food supplies for political detainees in Bangkok.

THE SEVENTH MISSION OF THE ICRC TO ALGERIA

The International Committee of the Red Cross has completed a further mission in Algeria which lasted from October 15 to November 27. The mission was carried out by the following delegates: Mr. Pierre Gaillard, Mr. Roger Vust, Dr. Jean-Louis Chastonay and Mr. Laurent Vust.

During this mission, the seventh sent by the ICRC to Algeria since February 1955, the delegates visited 82 places of detention including 44 screening and transit centres, 12 prisons where persons under prosecution as a result of the events are held, 13 assembly centres, 10 camps for military internees and 3 hospitals where wounded prisoners were receiving treatment. They spoke without witnesses with about one thousand detained persons. They also distributed clothing, under-clothing and cigarettes valued at 30,000 Swiss francs.

Following these visits the delegates informed the civilian and military authorities in Algeria of the points noted and their suggestions. A report on the visits has been made and submitted to the French Government.

In addition, the delegates of the ICRC got in touch with the four mobile medical teams of the French Red Cross composed of nurses who give medico-social assistance to women and children in the resettlement centres and make distributions of foodstuffs. The delegates also had long interviews with the directors of the French Red Cross in Algeria who informed them of their plans to extend their activities in behalf of the resettled population.

In the course of the previous visits the ICRC had already taken steps to assist these resettled civilians in Algeria to whom it sent medicaments through the French Red Cross.

VISIT OF THE ICRC TO MALAYA

The International Committee of the Red Cross took advantage of the presence in the Far East of Mr. J.-P. Schoenholzer, Member of the Legal Department, to ask him to go to the Federation of Malaya and to pay a visit to the National Red Cross Society.

This new Society, which will take the place of the Malayan Branch of the British Red Cross, will shortly be applying for recognition by the International Committee of the Red Cross ; it is now waiting for the governmental decree to be passed granting it recognition on the national level. The Society has also to deal with other problems concerning the conditions for recognition by the International Committee. These circumstances, and the fact that the ICRC is always desirous of establishing personal contacts with future members of the International Red Cross, were the motives for Mr. Schoenholzer's mission.

The delegate of the ICRC stayed in Malaya from November 8 to 16 ; he met with a warm welcome in Kuala Lumpur and had some very interesting talks with the directorate of the National Society. He also had the opportunity of visiting Red Cross branches in some of the States of the Federation of Malaya, in particular Perak, Penang and Malacca. He met with a cordial welcome everywhere and was able to see the excellent work being done and the enthusiasm shown by all concerned. His numerous interviews and the talks he was asked to give enabled

him to supply much useful information on the Geneva Conventions, the fundamental principles of the Red Cross and the work of the International Red Cross.

The International Committee congratulates itself on having established useful relations with the Red Cross Society of Malaya, to which it will be pleased to grant recognition in due course.

NEWS ITEMS CONCERNING NATIONAL SOCIETIES

UNITED STATES

We are indebted to the American Red Cross for this interesting article on a new emergency service to assist the victims of natural disasters of which the French translation was published in the October issue of the Revue internationale de la Croix-Rouge.

EMERGENCY SERVICE IN NATURAL DISASTERS

A tornado twists out of the night to ravage a sleeping community. A hurricane boils up out of the sea to batter cities, villages and farmlands. A flooding river spills out of its banks, spreading death and destruction over the country-side. The next day, newspapers and the radio carry the story afar, telling of persons fleeing their home to some haven of safety.

When such disasters strike an American community, anxious persons around the country, concerned over the welfare of their relatives in the stricken area, turn to their local Red Cross Chapter for word of their loved ones. They know that, when disasters strike anywhere in America, the Red Cross is on the job, organized and ready in every community, helping evacuate the victims and opening shelters and feeding stations to care for the homeless and hungry.

Their local Chapters telegraph these inquiries over the American Red Cross nation-wide telecommunications system to the headquarters at the scene of the catastrophe where Red Cross national diaster staff and Chapter volunteers maintain

**+ DISASTER SERVICES
AMERICAN RED CROSS**



THIS SIDE OF CARD IS FOR ADDRESS

This card is provided free by the RED CROSS as a public service to help you in the disaster area notify family members of your address and welfare.

(INSTRUCTIONS FOR USE ON OTHER SIDE)

AMERICAN RED CROSS – SAFETY NOTIFICATION CARD

HOW TO USE THIS CARD: If you reside in a locality affected by the disaster, fill in a card and send to member of your family most concerned about your safety.

I am safe and can be reached at following address until further notice:

STREET ADDRESS, CITY & STATE (Indicate "General Delivery" if no definite mailing address)	
OTHER MESSAGE (News of other relatives, etc.)	
DATE	SIGNATURE

Sender and receiver of this card may also receive inquiries through the Red Cross Inquiry Service. Because of timing, etc., this duplication is sometimes unavoidable.

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records of casualties and of those refugees who have escaped with their lives. Such a welfare inquiry service, although certainly one of the more worthy services provided by Red Cross during the emergency phase of a disaster operation, requires the time and efforts of many staff and volunteers who otherwise could be tending to the immediate needs of the victims themselves.

The American Red Cross and the United States Post Office Department recently announced a new plan whereby families separated by natural disaster will be reunited more quickly and victims will be able to inform relatives much sooner of their survival and of their temporary addresses if forced to remain away from their homes.

American Red Cross President Alfred M. Gruenther and U.S. Postmaster General Arthur E. Summerfield, in announcing the new plan, stated jointly :

The American Red Cross and the Post Office Department have cooperated wholeheartedly for many years to give disaster stricken communities the best possible emergency service. This always has included the exchange of information helpful in locating families which the disaster has separated or forced to move to other quarters. Often, this service has been costly in both time and effort, and in the meantime the worries of interested people elsewhere could not be relieved. The problem was particularly acute during Hurricane Audrey in July 1957 when many residents of Cameron Parish, Louisiana, were forced to move to surrounding communities. That experience indicated the need for a more explicit understanding between the American Red Cross and the Post Office Department and more specific operating procedures to implement it in localities where disaster strikes.

Under the new agreement, the Post Office Department's official change of address form and the Red Cross safety notification postal card are being stocked in strategic parts of the country for quick distribution to any stricken area¹. Red Cross disaster

¹ Inset the reproduction (actual size) of both sides of the Red Cross Safety Notification Card.

teams will help victims fill out these forms. The Post Office designated to serve the disaster area, either one in a major community or a special Office established in the emergency relocation area, will set up locater files from the change of address cards. The safety notification cards will be immediately available to disaster-affected persons for mailing to relatives and friends. The locater files in the Post Office will greatly speed up the Red Cross' handling of inquiries concerning the survival and temporary addresses of victims, and also will enable the Red Cross to perform this essential service at a considerably reduced cost.

The plan developed on the national level applies principally to major disasters in which large numbers of persons are displaced, but it can be adapted locally by the Postmaster and the local Red Cross officials wherever disaster strikes. In addition to saving both time and money, this cooperation should greatly reduce the number of inquiries flooding into a disaster area, since most of the information out-of-town relatives desire will already have been furnished many of them by Red Cross and the Post Office Department.

This plan is just another of the many Red Cross has developed to improve its services to victims of natural disasters throughout the nation. For more than 77 years, Red Cross has been the American people's first line of defense against the suffering of disaster. Whenever tornadoes, floods, hurricanes, fires and epidemics ravage homes or even entire communities, Red Cross mobilizes its personnel and resources to aid the stricken. It helps shelter the homeless, feed the hungry and nurse the ill and injured.

Such emergency care is only the first phase in the long process that helps the disaster victim without sufficient resources of his own to start back along the road to his normal way of life. During the rehabilitation phase, the Red Cross rebuilds or repairs homes, provides essential household furnishings or occupational equipment, assists in reestablishing small family businesses and provides medical and nursing care to the critically injured. This work takes about 85 cents out of every Red Cross disaster relief dollar.

NEWS ITEMS CONCERNING NATIONAL SOCIETIES

During the 1957-58 fiscal year ending June 30, 1958, the Red Cross conducted 313 disaster relief operations in which 79,500 persons were given emergency mass care, 10,150 families were given postdisaster rehabilitation assistance and 2100 homes were rebuilt and repaired. The total cost to Red Cross was \$9,011,000. All such disaster relief services, and these include the safety notification postal card, are a gift of the American people through their Red Cross. Nothing is sold ; there are no loans to be repaid.
