

Zeitschrift: Annual report / International Committee of the Red Cross
Herausgeber: International Committee of the Red Cross
Band: - (1950)

Rubrik: Relations with Red Cross and International Organizations

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II. Relations with Red Cross and International Organizations

THE LEAGUE OF RED CROSS SOCIETIES AND NATIONAL RED CROSS SOCIETIES

The ICRC maintained and developed its relations with the National Societies. Mail exchanged with them represented one-fifth of the total. Apart from correspondence, representatives on mission visited numerous Societies, and the Committee received in turn many of their representatives.

Co-operation with the League followed on the same lines as previously. Regular meetings allowed the two Secretariats to deal rapidly with matters of common interest.

The Committee was represented at the meeting of the Board of Governors of the League, held at Monaco in October. Judge Emil Sandström, President of the Swedish Red Cross, was elected Chairman of the Board in succession to Mr. Basil O'Connor.

STANDING COMMISSION OF THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS

The Standing Commission met at Geneva in plenary session on May 11, with M. Ali Rana Tarhan, President of the Turkish Red Crescent, in the Chair. The Commission noted the work done in Palestine by the International Red Cross, the mission undertaken in agreement with the United Nations having come to an end on April 30, 1950.¹

The Commission met again in October at Monaco, following the meeting of the Board of Governors of the League, under the chairmanship of M. André François-Poncet.

¹ See below, pp. 67-71.

The three Presidents met at Geneva on February 10 and July 22, to examine current business, including repatriation of Greek children, and the Committee's activities in Korea and in the Southern Moluccas.

Details were given at these meetings by the American Red Cross of arrangements being made for the next International Red Cross Conference, due to take place at Washington in October, 1952.

RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL SOCIETIES

In conformity with Art. 4 (c) of its Statutes, the ICRC gave official recognition to two new Societies :

The *Indonesian Red Cross*, June 15, and
The *San Marino Red Cross*, October 19, 1950.

NATIONAL SOCIETY DELEGATES TO THE COMMITTEE

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| Brazil : | M. T. W. Sloper ; |
| Cuba : | M. Alfonso Hernandez Catà ; |
| France : | M. Charles Guillon ; |
| Greece : | Dr. Spiro Marmora ; |
| Italy : | Professor Luigi Carozzi ; |
| Mexico : | Madame Abril de Rueda, Delegate, and M. J. J. G. de Rueda, Deputy Delegate ; |
| Netherlands : | Dr. Charles Bernard ; |
| Poland : | Dr. Konstantin Rudzinski ; |
| Portugal : | Dr. Abilio Gonçalves Countinho ; |
| United States : | Mr. Henry W. Dunning. |
| Uruguay : | M. Hector J. Blanco. |

The Government of Israel designated Dr. M. Kahany, as temporary representative.

RELATIONS WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

The Committee continued its collaboration with the representatives of numerous welfare agencies in Geneva, including the International Social Service and the following members of the « Cartel » : The World Federation of Young Men's Christian Associations (YMCA) ; the World Federation of Young Women's Christian Associations (YWCA) ; Caritas Catholica Internationalis ; the International Centre for Relief to Civilian Populations ; the World Council of Churches ; the American Friends Service Committee ; World Student Relief ; OSE Union for the Promotion of Health amongst Jewish Populations ; the International Union for Child Welfare.

The Committee took part, January 10 to 16, in the Conference of non-governmental organizations which met at Geneva under the auspices of the United Nations General Secretariat and the International Labour Organization. The Conference made recommendations for dealing with the problem of migrants and the stateless. On the proposal of the ICRC, M. Aghababian, who has written much on the subject of refugees and whose ideas led to the creation of AGIUS in Italy, was called upon to explain his proposals in connexion with international legal assistance.

These proposals were again examined in October, at a meeting called by the International Centre for Relief, and attended by the organizations forming the Cartel. The results are dealt with in Chapter V.

In March, Dr. Ernest Gloor, Dr. Alec Cramer and M. Jean Pictet took part at Monaco in the work of the Documentation Office of the Congress of Military Medecine and Pharmacy.

In August, Dr. Gloor attended a three-day session in Paris of the International Blood Transfusion Committee.

MISSIONS

As there is no permanent representation in a number of countries where it is important for the ICRC to maintain

contacts, an increased number of missions were undertaken by the President, the Directors and members of the staff.

The total of such visits was 58 in 1950, as compared with 28 in 1945, when the number of Delegations abroad was at its highest.

MISSIONS OF THE PRESIDENT

Palestine. — M. Ruegger went to the Near East in March to visit the various installations of the Committee's Commissariat for Aid to Palestine Refugees. On March 17, he was received, with the Head of the Commissariat, M. Alfred Escher, by the President of Syria.

With M. Escher, he then visited Jericho, Nablus, Bethlehem and Ramallah. On March 22, at the Medical and Relief Centre set up in Jerusalem by the Committee for the poor who were not considered as refugees, he received an address of thanks for the work done in Palestine since 1948. The address bore the signatures of the Mayor of Jerusalem, the Armenian, Coptic, Latin and Orthodox Patriarchs, the Anglican Bishop and several Muktars.

At Amman, M. Ruegger was received in audience by H. M. King Abdullah.

At Beirut, he met the Authorities, representatives of the Diplomatic Corps, the Army and the Lebanese Red Cross, and the Committee's Delegates and staff. He was received by the President of Lebanon, M. Bechara El Khoury.

Iraq. — With M. Escher and M. A. de Cocatrix, Delegate at Cairo, M. Ruegger was met at the aerodrome at Baghdad by representatives of the Iraqi Red Crescent. During a reception by the National Society and the Ladies Committee, M. Ruegger had talks with the President of the Iraqi Red Crescent, M. Archad el Omary and M. Saleh Jeber, Minister of the Interior and Acting Prime Minister. He was given an audience by the Prince Regent.

Israel. — Amongst others, M. Ruegger visited the Committee's installations at Nazareth and Haifa. During cordial talks with M. Sharett, Minister for External Affairs, the refugee problem

in the Near East and other questions of common interest were discussed.

This tour of inspection in the Near East allowed M. Ruegger to see also the arrangements that were being made for other international agencies to take over in Palestine.

Canada and the United States. — At the end of May and the beginning of June, M. Ruegger went to North America with MM. Wolf and de Traz.

He was received on May 22, the day of his arrival at Ottawa, by the Prime Minister, Mr. Saint-Laurent, and the following day by a member of the Cabinet, Mr. Claxton, and a number of officials. Mr. Claxton paid tribute in the House of Commons to what the ICRC had done for Canadian prisoners of war. The party was received on May 25 at the headquarters of the Canadian Red Cross at Toronto.

The President and Madame Ruegger were the guests of General George C. Marshall, President of the American Red Cross, and Mrs. Marshall for six days, during which several discussions took place with leading members of the American Red Cross. M. Ruegger spoke on the present and future tasks of the Red Cross ; he visited numerous centres of the A.R.C. which, apart from its international work, has organized nineteen million Juniors.

Soviet Union. — Contact was made with the Presidency of the Soviet Alliance of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies when a mission went to Moscow, from November 8 to 20. Besides the President and Madame Ruegger, it included Dr. Ernest Gloor, MM. Rodolfo Olgiati, Frédéric Siordet, Max Wolf and David de Traz. The party travelled to Prague in a special Swiss-Air plane, and from there to Moscow in a Soviet aircraft. M. Ruegger and his colleagues much appreciated the welcome accorded them by the President, M. Holodkov, and the members of the Executive Committee of the Alliance, and the spirit in which the working meetings were conducted during the following week. On November 17, M. Ruegger and Dr. Ernest Gloor had a talk at the Foreign Affairs Ministry with M. Gromyko, Vice-Minister in charge.

A stop on the return journey caused by bad weather allowed the mission to make contact with the President of the Red Cross in Bielorussia, at the capital city, Minsk.

Norway, Sweden, Denmark. — At the beginning of December, the Committee, twice awarded the Nobel Peace Prize (1917 and 1944), was invited to take part in the ceremonies at Oslo to mark the fiftieth year of the Foundation. M. Duchosal accompanied the President. M. Ruegger was given an audience by the King, and was received by the Minister for External Affairs.

On his return, M. Ruegger called at Stockholm on the Minister for External Affairs, M. Unden, and on the Swedish Red Cross.

At Copenhagen, he was warmly received by the President of the Danish Red Cross, M. Hansen, the former President, M. Hammerich, and members of the Council. The following day, December 5, he was given an audience by the King at Amalienborg, and met M. Bjoerne Kraft, Minister for External Affairs.

OTHER MISSIONS

M. G. Meyer-Moro to Frankfurt (January) ;

MM. R. Olgiati and F. Ehrenhold to Salzburg (January) ;

M. René Bovey to Milan (January) ;

MM. P. Carry, F. Siordet and R. Bovey to Paris (January) ;

Dr. R. Marti to Palestine (February) ;

M. D. de Traz and Dr. R. Marti to Karachi and New Delhi (March) ;

MM. R. Olgiati, F. Ehrenhold and M. Borsinger to Berlin (March) ;

M. H. Beckh to Munich (March) ;

M. R. Gallopin to Bonn (March) ;

M. F. Siordet to Paris (March) ;

MM. Roth and P. Colombo to Athens (April-May) ;

M. R. Olgiati to Berlin (May) ;
M. F. Siordet to Prague (May) ;
M. R. Gallopin to the United States (June) ;
Mlle. D. Werner to Rome (June) ;
M. A. de Cocatrix to Baghdad (August) ;
Dr. E. Gloor, with M. E. de Weck, to Belgrade (October) ;
MM. J. Pictet, C. Pilloud and M. Borsinger to Baden-Baden
(November) ;
M. C. Pilloud to Paris (November) ;
MM. F. Siordet and W. Michel to Bangkok, Rangoon, Saigon,
Hanoi and Singapore (December).
