

Zeitschrift: Annual report / International Committee of the Red Cross
Herausgeber: International Committee of the Red Cross
Band: - (1952)

Rubrik: Relations with International Organisations

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III. Relations with International Organisations

UNITED NATIONS

The ICRC sent the Secretary-General of the United Nations a number of general reports together with documents relating to activities liable to be discussed in the course of the 7th Session of the Assembly.

Relevant details have been given in previous chapters ¹.

INTERNATIONAL LAW COMMISSION

The ICRC continued, as in the past, to follow the work on the codification of international law by delegating an observer to the Commission on the occasion of its meeting in Geneva.

COUNCIL OF EUROPE

Working contacts have been set up with the Council of Europe. The relevant information on this subject has been given under the heading "Implementation of certain provisions of the Geneva Conventions" ².

¹ See especially *Part I*, Chapter IV, pages 34 and 35, Repatriation of Displaced Greek Children; *Part II*, Chapter IV, pages 52 to 56, Korea; *Part III*, Chapter I, page 59, Dissemination of the Geneva Conventions.

² See above, page 61: see also *Council of Europe*, Document 77, Report of the Social Questions Committee.

OTHER ORGANISATIONS

In connection with its relations with the High Commissioner for Refugees and the Intergovernmental Committee for European Migrations, the ICRC assisted at the general meetings convened by the ICEM or by the High Commissioner. It also took part in the work of the Conference of non-governmental organisations concerned with migration questions.

During the period under review the ICRC also remained in close contact with the representatives in Geneva of several relief organisations such as the *International Social Service*, the *Young Men's Christian Association*, the *Young Women's Christian Association*, *Caritas catholica internationalis*, the *International Centre for Relief to Civilian Populations*, the *World Council of Churches*, the *American Friends Service Committee (Quakers)*¹, the *World Student Relief*, the *Organisation for Health and Hygiene among Jews*, the *International Union for Child Welfare*² and the *International Catholic Commission on Migrations* (ICCM) recently instituted.

The ICRC was particularly concerned, for the majority of these organisations, with the settlement of various questions concerning refugees who are not eligible for relief under the United Nations.

INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR MEDICAL EQUIPMENT

This Commission, whose aim is to serve as a medium of co-ordination and information in all questions concerning military and civilian medical equipment, held two meetings at the ICRC headquarters in 1952.

The meeting of January 22, 1952, which dealt with the revision of the Statutes and the drafting of a programme of work, was attended by General Jame, Chairman (France), Brigadier Meuli (Switzerland), Professor de Laet (Belgium),

¹ In connection with relief to civilian populations suffering from the effects of war.

² See above, page 62.

General Florelius and Dr. G. Alsted for the League, Dr. A. Cramer and Dr. R. Marti for the ICRC, and Dr. Mackenzie, Observer (United Kingdom).

The Report and the new Regulations of the Commission (henceforth to be entitled "International Commission for Medical Equipment") were later approved by the XVIIIth International Red Cross Conference.

At the meeting held on December 9, 1952, which was the first meeting of the new Commission, the persons above-mentioned were present, with the exception of Professor de Laet, Dr. Mackenzie and Dr. Marti, whose places were respectively taken by General Lefebvre, Dr. J. C. Johnstone and Dr. Junod. Representatives from the World Health Organization, the International Organization for Standardization and the International Blood Transfusion Society were present as Observers.

In accordance with a resolution of the Toronto Conference ¹, the Commission first discussed the question of blood transfusion equipment. In addition it took steps to make known the results achieved in regard to the standardisation of Red Cross Medical Equipment, Stretchers and Supports and Syringe Tips.

In conclusion the Commission put forward certain recommendations with the object of giving the widest possible publicity to the results already achieved and encouraging National Red Cross Societies, Army Medical Services, Ministries of Health and the various specialised agencies to accelerate investigations already being pursued, and in particular the study of practical solutions to render possible the standardisation, or in any case the interchangeability, of a few essential articles in the near future.

¹ See Annex IV, *Extracts from the Toronto Resolutions*, Resolution 29, below, page 122.