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The Report met with unanimous approval. It was published by the ICRC and communicated to National Red Cross Societies, and Governments party to the Geneva Conventions. The text of the document will be found on page 84.

## *II. — RELATIONS WITH RED CROSS ORGANISATIONS*

### **1. NATIONAL RED CROSS SOCIETIES AND THE LEAGUE OF RED CROSS SOCIETIES**

The ties existing between the ICRC, the League and National Red Cross Societies form at the present day a very solid structure for the defence of Red Cross principles and the implementation of humanitarian law.

During the past year the management of the ICRC remained in close contact with the Secretariat of the League of Red Cross Societies. Joint meetings were held each month, consecutively at the League and ICRC headquarters, to examine the activities common to both institutions, the implementing of the resolutions of the XVIIIth International Red Cross Conference and special questions, in particular the creation of new Red Cross Societies, the international broadcast on Red Cross Day (May 8) and various measures for propagating the knowledge of Red Cross principles and activities.

### **2. MISSIONS OF THE ICRC**

#### **(a) Missions of the President of the ICRC.**

Early in January M. Paul Ruegger visited London where he had interviews with leading personalities of the British Red Cross Society, in particular with Lady Limerick, Vice-Chairman of that Society. During his visit the President of the ICRC had

further contact with The Right Hon. Anthony Eden, Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

In compliance with the request of the Academy of International Law for a series of lectures on the organisation of the International Red Cross and its legal aspects, M. Paul Ruegger gave five lectures at The Hague on the proposed subject, from July 20 to 24. Over 500 persons were present on each occasion, including members of the Diplomatic Corps and the Netherlands Red Cross Society, international officials, jurists and students of all nationalities, candidates for the Academy degree.

At the close of the lectures the President of the ICRC met with the Chairman and leading personalities of the Netherlands Red Cross Society at its headquarters. On his return journey he visited the Grand Duchy of Luxemburg, where he was received at the new headquarters of the Luxemburg Red Cross Society.

In September M. Paul Ruegger proceeded to Rome, in order to discuss with the leaders of the Italian Red Cross Society the general activities of the ICRC in favour of Italy, and to arrange for the proposed assistance to children who had been mutilated by explosions of military appliances left lying in the ground after the war <sup>1</sup>.

At the end of the year, in response to the invitation of the Irish Red Cross Society, the President of the ICRC attended the Society's first General Meeting, held in Dublin.

When opening the first session on November 12, in the presence of Members of the Government and the Diplomatic Corps, Mrs. Tom Barry, Chairman of the Society, emphasised the attachment of the Irish people to the ICRC and the Red Cross Movement.

During his visit President P. Ruegger was received by the President of Ireland (Honorary Chairman of the Irish Red Cross Society), the Prime Minister, Mr. Eamon de Valera and Mr. Aiken, Foreign Secretary.

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<sup>1</sup> See above page 31.

**(b) Chronological List of ICRC Missions in 1953.**

The following list gives the principal missions of the ICRC in 1953. (The names of the persons designated for the missions are shown in brackets.)

January 1-26	Mission for assistance to sick prisoners of war, <i>Saïgon</i> (Dr. Aguet)
January 3	Study-mission, <i>Paris</i> (M. R. Gallopin)
January 5	Mission to <i>London</i> (President of the ICRC)
Jan. 26-Feb. 8	Mission in connection with relations of the ICRC with the Jugoslav Red Cross Society, Belgrade, <i>Belgrade</i> (MM. F. Ehrenhold and H. Beckh)
January 17-29	Study-mission, <i>Dusseldorf-Bonn</i> (MM. J. Babel and C. Ammann)
February 14-13	Relief-mission to flood victims in Holland, <i>Dordrecht-The Hague</i> (M. G. Kuhne)
February 5-14	Information-mission, <i>Stockholm</i> (M. Siordet)
February 12-22	Study-mission, <i>Berlin, Bonn and Cologne</i> (M. F. Ehrenhold)
March 1	Assembly of Powers concerned with the application of Article 16 of the Peace Treaty with Japan, <i>London</i> (MM. P. Carry, R. Gallopin and M. Wolf)
March 7-8	Information Conference of the Legal Institute, <i>Nice</i> , for the study of the question of penal sanctions for breaches of the humanitarian Conventions (M. C. Pilloud)
March 10	Meeting of the Three Presidents, <i>Remagen</i> (President of the ICRC, M. R. Gallopin)
March 8-11, 13-17	Study-missions, <i>Paris</i> (M. R. Gallopin)
May 14	Mission for assistance to tubercular refugees, <i>Trieste</i> , (Dr. Aguet)
May 27	Session of the "Institut für Europäische Politik und Wirtschaft", <i>Bonn-Koenigswinter</i> (M. R. Olgiati, M. C. Pilloud)
July 20	Mission for assistance to refugees, <i>Trieste</i> (Mlle. Rothenbach)
July 20-24	Lectures of the President of the ICRC at the Academy of International Law, <i>The Hague</i>
July 24	Visit to the Netherlands Red Cross Society, <i>The Hague</i> (President of the ICRC and M. F. de Reynold)

July 25	Visit to the Luxemburg Red Cross Society, <i>Luxemburg</i> (President of the ICRC and M. F. de Reynold)
August 17	Mission for assistance to earthquake victims, <i>Athens</i> (Mlle. Nussbaum)
September 7	Visit to the Italian Red Cross Society, <i>Rome</i> (President of the ICRC)
September 27	6th International Congress of Penal Law, <i>Rome</i> (M. C. Pilloud)
October 1-3	Mission to <i>Strasburg</i> — IIIrd General Assembly of the European Association for the Study of the Refugee Problem (MM. F. Ehrenhold and H. Coursier)
October 4	Mission to represent the ICRC at the inauguration of the monument and "Henry Dunant Centre" in <i>Woudschoten</i> (M. J. Pictet)
October 7	Executive Committee for the application of Article 16 of the Peace Treaty with Japan, <i>London</i> (M. P. Carry and M. P. Kuhne)
October 9	Mission to <i>Paris</i> (M. D. de Traz)
October 14	16th Session of the International Information Office for Military Medecine and Pharmacy, <i>Rome</i> (M. C. Pilloud)
October 15	5th Session of the Intergovernmental Committee for European Migrations, <i>Venice</i> (M. R. Gallopin)
November 4	Mission of assistance to tubercular refugees, <i>Trieste</i> (M. D. de Traz and M. M. Wolf)
November 7	First General Meeting of the Irish Red Cross Society, <i>Dublin</i> (President of the ICRC)
November 14	Study-mission, <i>Monaco-Paris</i> (M. G. Kuhne)
November 16-18	Mission to the Jugoslav Red Cross Society, <i>Belgrade</i> (MM. F. Ehrenhold and H. Beckh)
November 17-20	Missions to <i>Paris</i> (M. J. Chenevière, M. R. Gallopin)

N.B. The above list only refers to journeys or missions outside Switzerland.

### 3. MEETING OF THE THREE PRESIDENTS

On March 12, M. Paul Ruegger took part, with M. André François-Poncet, Ambassador of France, Chairman of the Standing Commission and Judge Emil Sandström, Chairman of the League, in a meeting at Remagen to study the question

of the refugees in Berlin and certain aspects of the International Committee's work in Korea. The President of the ICRC was accompanied by M. Roger Gallopin, Executive Director.

#### **4. STANDING COMMISSION**

The Standing Commission of the International Red Cross held two meetings in Geneva on May 12 and October 30. The meetings were attended by the five members designated by the XVIIIth International Red Cross Conference : M. André François-Poncet, Chairman, the Hon. Rajkumari Amrit Kaur, Vice-Chairman, Mr. J. T. Nicholson, Mr. Boris Pachkov and Mr. T. W. Sloper : the two League delegates : Judge Emil Sandström, Chairman of the Board of Governors, and Lady Limerick ; and for the ICRC, M. Paul Ruegger and M. Frédéric Siordet.

During the meeting on May 12 the Commission was gratified to receive the news of the repatriation of a certain number of interned civilians held in North Korea, and the exchange of wounded and sick prisoners between the belligerents. The Commission expressed the wish that operations for the liberation of interned civilians, and the exchange of prisoners, should be pursued, while awaiting the conclusion of a definite armistice.

On October 30, after taking cognizance of the Report on the monthly meetings of representatives of the ICRC and the League of Red Cross Societies, the Commission examined various questions, in particular with regard to the ratification of the Geneva Conventions of August 12, 1949.

#### **5. SESSION OF OCTOBER 30**

On October 30, the members of the Standing Commission and representatives of National Red Cross Societies participating in the meetings of the League Executive Committee held an information and working session at the headquarters of the ICRC<sup>1</sup>, presided by M. Paul Ruegger.

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<sup>1</sup> In May 1951 a meeting was arranged by the ICRC, in similar circumstances, in agreement with the League of Red Cross Societies.

The meeting was attended by about thirty participants, representing National Societies of 21 countries: Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, India, Ireland, Jugoslavia, Mexico, Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, the United Kingdom and the United States. The Chairman of the Standing Commission and the Secretary-General of the League were also present.

In his address of welcome, M. Paul Ruegger expressed the satisfaction of the ICRC in receiving those leading personalities of the Red Cross world at its headquarters, and emphasised that the meeting between friends animated by a mutual humanitarian ideal was a great opportunity for drawing a closer bond with the League of Red Cross Societies, which was indispensable for the harmonious development of the work of the Red Cross.

The discussions were essentially concerned with questions of common interest. The Agenda of the meeting, based on recommendations emanating from National Societies, included five current items: the ratification, implementation and dissemination of the Geneva Conventions of 1949; hospital and safety zones; the reuniting of displaced families; repatriation of Jugoslav children; refugees in West Germany<sup>1</sup>.

The meeting gave rise to a fruitful exchange of views on the development of Red Cross activities in times of peace and of war.

## 6. STUDY VISITS

As for previous years, members of National Red Cross Societies came to Geneva for study visits, in order to gain a better knowledge of the part played by the ICRC in the Red Cross world. The General Management and Secretariat of the ICRC made every effort to facilitate visits made for that purpose by Mesdames L. Chawarby and El Faar (the respective President and Vice-President of the Ladies' Council of the Egyptian Red Crescent Society), and MM. Vuithier and Schenkel, Members of the General Secretariat of the Swiss Red Cross in Berne.

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<sup>1</sup> See *Revue internationale de la Croix-Rouge*, November 1953.