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6. MAIL

From January 1 to December 31, 1953, the mail registered at the ICRC headquarters in Geneva amounted to 394,212 letters, postcards, telegrams and enquiry cards for missing persons. The incoming and outgoing figures were as follows:

Mail received : 119,758 letters, cards, telegrams,
78,611 enquiry cards

Mail despatched : 115,853 letters, cards, telegrams,
79,990 enquiry cards

Total : 394,212

II. — FINANCING OF THE ICRC

The accounts for 1953, as on December 31, 1953, and the financial position of the ICRC at that date form the subject of the following tables:

Table I. Balance Sheet as on December 31, 1953.

Table II. General income and expenditure account for 1953.

Table III. Contributions for the regular financing of the ICRC made in 1953 by Governments and National Red Cross Societies.

Table IV. Reserves and Provisions in 1953.

Table V. Summary estimate of the ICRC expenditure and receipts for 1954.

Table VI. General account for relief actions.

The official auditors verified the annual accounts, as certified at the foot of Tables I and II.

1. GENERAL INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

It will be ascertained from a brief survey of the following Tables that—

However, the General Income and Expenditure Account for 1953, concerning previous budgetary years, shows a credit balance of Sw. Fr. 382,472.42.

The balance has been transferred to the Reserves and Provisions Account, of which a Summary is given in Table IV.

The ICRC sincerely hopes that generous contributions from Governments and National Red Cross Societies will enable it to reach, in 1954, the financial equilibrium required for its working funds and budget, for which active steps are being taken to reduce expenditure.

2. GENERAL ACCOUNT FOR RELIEF WORK

At the end of December 1952, the balance of the General Account for Relief Work amounted to Fr. 1,158,082.45, to which has been added the net product of the 1952 collection in Switzerland.

The particulars of relief supplies distributed by the ICRC in 1953 will be found on Page 39.

The balance of the General Account for Relief Work, as on December 31, 1953, amounted to Fr. 1,815,962.34 (see Balance Sheet, Table I, A); the estimates for expenditure in 1954 have been summarized in Table VI.

The ICRC would like to express its warmest thanks to all donors for the kind interest they have always shown in its work, and for their generous support.

TABLES I - II - III - IV - V - VI

**(Financial and budgetary position of the ICRC
as on December 31, 1953)**

BALANCE SHEET AS ON

ASSETS

	Sw. Fr.	Sw. Fr.
AVAILABLE AND REALISABLE		
Cash in hand	19,965.72	
Postal Cheque Account	26,316.94	
Balance at Swiss Banks	1,794,285.59	
Foreign currency holdings	11,696,735.49	
Public Securities and other deposits at the Swiss National Bank	11,340,805.70	
		24,878,109.44
EARMARKED		
Advances to ICRC Delegations and Delegates abroad	180,582.15	
National Red Cross Societies, Governments and official Organisations	97,867.32	
Sundry debtors, advances and repayable costs	304,024.73	
Temporary assets (Costs paid in advance)	89,390.23	
Pharmaceutical and other stocks for relief	22,168.93	
Reserve stocks	244,549.35	
		938,582.71
OTHER ASSETS (nominal)		
Capital shares in " Foundation for the Organisation of Red Cross Transports "	1.—	
Furniture and office equipment	1.—	
		2.—
MEMO-ACCOUNT		
Allocation to ICRC Personnel Provident Fund		1,220,999.34
	Grand total . . .	27,037,693.49
Debtor for security		400,000.—

Table I

DECEMBER 31, 1953

LIABILITIES

	Sw. Fr.	Sw. Fr.
COMMITMENTS		
General account for relief work	1,815,962.34	
Collection in Switzerland (temporary figure)	627,869.69	
ICRC Delegations and Delegates abroad	16,583.70	
National Red Cross Societies, Governments and official Organisations	76,681.80	
Special Deposit (art. 16 of the Japanese Peace Treaty)	10,907,623.90	
Sundry creditors and temporary liabilities	372,588.21	
Swiss Confederation Loan	3,000,000.—	
		16,817,309.64
RESERVES AND PROVISIONS		
Guarantee Fund	3,000,000.—	
Reserve for action in case of conflict	5,000,000.—	
Reserve for general risks	729,835.16	
Provision for amortization of reserve stocks	244,549.35	
Provision for the XIXth International Red Cross Conference	25,000.—	
		8,999,384.51
MEMO-ACCOUNT		
Allocations to ICRC Personnel Provident Fund (to be refunded by annual allocations to the Reserve for general risks)		1,220,999.34
		27,037,693.49
Guarantee "Foundation for the Organisation of Red Cross Transports"		400,000.—

We have verified the annual account for 1953 of the International Committee of the Red Cross and certify that the above Balance Sheet as on December 31, 1953, is an accurate record of the financial situation of the ICRC on the date mentioned. The existence of the asset items recorded has been duly justified and all documents and information necessary for the investigation entrusted to our care have been readily supplied.

Geneva, March 15, 1954.

SOCIÉTÉ FIDUCIAIRE ROMANDE OFOR S.A.

GENERAL INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

EXPENDITURE

	To 1953	To previous years	Total
	Sw. Fr.	Sw. Fr.	Sw. Fr.
OVERHEAD EXPENSES AT GENEVA HEADQUARTERS			
Salaries and wages	1,957,661.60	—	1,957,661.60
Family and cost of living allowances, insurance and other social charges	621,338.05	428.90	621,766.95
Postage, telegrams, telephone	57,925.62	124.55	58,050.17
Equipment, maintenance and general supplies	109,561.47	1,692.47	111,253.94
Upkeep of cars and lorries	52,079.45	37.45	52,116.90
Reception of visitors and travelling expenses in Switzerland	32,665.60	3,147.50	35,813.10
Sundry Expenditure (allowances for various surveys, audits, revisions, consultations, insurance, etc.)	82,082.40	4,434.50	86,516.90
SPECIAL EXPENSES			
Publications, information	179,102.83	244.35	179,347.18
Allowance for expenses, Members of the Presidential Council	52,216.—	—	52,216.—
Red Cross Conferences and Meetings	26,103.90	—	26,103.90
Missions from Geneva and study courses for foreign visitors	44,741.81	1,282.—	46,023.81
MISSIONS ABROAD			
Salaries and insurance of delegates	150,428.20	—	150,428.20
Travelling and maintenance expenses	145,599.—	—	145,599.—
Overhead expenses	160,845.87	—	160,845.87
<i>Total Expenses</i>	3 672,351.80	11 391.72	3,683,743.52
Transfer to the Reserve for general risks of surplus receipts over expenditure concerning previous years	—	382,472.42	382,472.42
Grand total	3,672,351.80	393,864.14	4,066,215.94

Table II

ACCOUNT AS ON DECEMBER 31, 1953

RECEIPTS

	To 1953	To previous years	Total
	Sw. Fr.	Sw. Fr.	Sw. Fr.
CONTRIBUTIONS AND GIFTS TOWARDS FINANCING OF THE GENERAL WORK			
Contributions by National Red Cross Societies	283,083.80	35,008.20	318,092.—
Contributions by Governments	936,259.30	198,978.23	1,135,237.53
Sundry gifts	299,695.08	—	299,695.08
INCOME FROM INVESTMENTS			
Interests from Public Securities and Banks	73,499.96	297.82	73,747.78
ICRC Foundation	28,031.40	—	28,031.40
SUMS RECOVERED AND SUNDY RECEIPTS			
Sums recovered	395,698.77	49,498.79	455,197.56
Sundry receipts	52,292.67	110,081.10	162,373.77
<i>Total Receipts</i>	2,068,510.98	393,864.14	2,462,375.12
DEFICIT FOR 1953			
Written off by withdrawal from reserve for general risks	1,603,840.82	—	1,603,840.82
<i>Grand total</i>	3,672,351.80	393,864.14	4,066,215.94

We certify that the above General Income and Expenditure Account of the International Committee of the Red Cross for 1953 has been drawn up on the basis of the Annual Accounts for 1953, which have been audited by us and found true.

Geneva, March 15, 1954.

SOCIÉTÉ FIDUCIAIRE ROMANDE OFOR S.A.

Table III

CONTRIBUTIONS TOWARDS THE REGULAR FINANCING OF THE ICRC
MADE IN 1953 BY GOVERNMENTS
AND NATIONAL RED CROSS SOCIETIES

Countries	For 1953		For previous years	
	Governments	Red Cross Societies	Governments	Red Cross Societies
Afghanistan	Sw. Fr.	Sw. Fr.	Sw. Fr.	Sw. Fr.
Australia	9,784.—	25,680.—	1,200.— (1952)	
Austria	8,883.—	2,100.—		2,100.— (1952)
Belgium	10,000.—		10,000.— (1952)	
Brazil	3,300.—			
Bulgaria		1,481.62		
Burma		1,920.—		1,920.— (1952)
Canada	65,250.—	32,625.—		
Ceylon	3,040.75			
Columbia	13,590.—	2,000.—		
Costa-Rica		480.—		
Denmark		2,000.—	10,000.— (1952)	
Dominican Republic . .		600.—		
Ecuador	1,430.—	600.—	2,141.60 (1952) balance	
Ethiopia		1,080.—		
Finland	8,000.—	3,480.—		
France	32,000.—		33,000.— (1952)	5,500.— (50/52)
Germany (Fed. Rep.) .		13,514.85		6,753.50 (1952)
Greece	5,000.—		10,000.— (1952)	
Guatemala		600.—		
Holy See	42,850.—			
Iceland		500.—		
India		1,353.75	45,703.13 (1952)	
Iran				1,539.70 (1952) balance
Ireland	5,500.—	1,560.—		
Israel	2,000.—			
Japan				11,880.— (1952)
Jugoslavia	7,000.—			
Luxemburg	2,000.—	600.—		
Mexico	24,800.—			
Monaco	1,000.—			
Netherlands		20,000.—		315.— (1952) Suppl.
New Zealand	24,455.—	6,028.20	24,400.— (1952)	
Norway		3,000.—		
Pakistan	12,900.—		12,900.— (1952)	
Portugal	10,000.—			
San Salvador		132.—		
Saudi Arabia	8,580.—			
South Africa	48,797.50	14,520.—		
To be carried forward	349,660.25	135,955.42	149,344.73	30,008.20

Countries	For 1953		For previous years	
	Governments	Red Cross Societies	Governments	Red Cross Societies
Carried forward	Sw. Fr.	Sw. Fr.	Sw. Fr.	Sw. Fr.
Spain	349,660.25	135,955.42	149,344.73	30,008.20
Sweden	25,167.50	2,500.—		5,000.— (51/52)
Switzerland	500,000.—			
Thailand	12,000.—	1,354.18		
Turkey	46,389.35	11,880.—		
United Kingdom : London		24,394.20	48,720.— (1952)	
Nyasaland	913.50		913.50 (1952)	
Rhodesia (Northern)	2,128.70			
United States		107,000.—		
	936,259.30	283,083.80	198,978.23	35,008.20

N.B. The above Table does not include contributions received after the closing of accounts for 1953 which will be included in the report for 1954.

Table IV
RESERVES AND PROVISIONS IN 1953

	Movement in 1953		Credit Balances
	Debit	Credit	
RESERVE FOR GENERAL RISKS : Balance as on December 31, 1952	Sw. Fr.	Sw. Fr.	Sw. Fr.
Remittance from the Government of the German Federal Republic for partial refund of costs incurred by the ICRC in connection with its activities on behalf of German nationals		1,271,157.42	806,056.53
Transfer of surplus receipts over expenditure concerning previous years		382,472.42	
Sundry	126,010.39		
Withdrawal for writing off the deficit for 1953	1,603,840.82		
	1,729,851.21	1,653,629.84	76,221.37
	Credit balance		729,835.16
GUARANTEE FUND			3,000,000.—
RESERVE FOR ACTION IN CASE OF CONFLICT			5,000,000.—
PROVISION FOR AMORTIZATION OF RESERVE STOCKS			244,549.35
PROVISION FOR THE XIXTH INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS CONFERENCE			25,000.—
Position as on December 31, 1953 (See Table I, B)			8,999,384.51

SUMMARY ESTIMATE OF ORDINARY EXPENDITURE

ESTIMATED EXPENDITURE	Sw. Fr.
OVERHEAD EXPENSES AT GENEVA HEADQUARTERS :	
Salaries and wages	1,866,000.—
Family and cost-of-living allowances, social charges	591,400.—
Postage, telegrams, telephone	65,000.—
Equipment, maintenance and general supplies	128,800.—
Upkeep of cars and lorries	54,300.—
Reception of visitors and travelling expenses in Switzerland	44,000.—
Sundry expenses	82,800.—
SPECIAL EXPENSES :	
Publications, information	168,000.—
Allowances for expenses, Members of the Presidential Council	50,900.—
Red Cross Conferences and meetings	32,000.—
Legal Experts Commissions	30,000.—
Missions from Geneva	95,000.—
Delegations abroad	354,600.—
Sundry expenses	30,000.—
	3,592,800.—

NOTE: The above estimates of expenditure have been established and studied with the most careful attention. They do not include any extraordinary expenditure and are subject to complete revision, should this be required by any important change in international circumstances.

Table V

AND RECEIPTS FOR 1954

ESTIMATED RECEIPTS	Sw. Fr.
(a) RECEIPTS CONCERNING THE CURRENT YEAR:	
Contributions from Governments	1,139,000.—*
Contributions from National Red Cross Societies	316,000.—**
Sundry donations	335,000.—
Income from invested funds	97,000.—
Sundry refunds and receipts	317,000.—
Total	2,204,000.—
(b) RECEIPTS CONCERNING PREVIOUS YEARS:	
Contributions from Governments	264,600.—
Contributions from National Red Cross Societies	28,000.—
Sundry refunds and receipts	9,400.—
Total	302,000.—
<i>Grand Total</i>	2,506,000.—
<i>The deficit between receipts and expenditure therefore amounts to</i>	1,086,800.—
	3,592,800.—

* Estimates based on the amount of contributions received or promised for 1953.

** Estimates based on the amount of contributions received or expected for 1953.

Table VI

GENERAL ACCOUNT FOR RELIEF ACTIONS

	Sw. Fr.
Position as on December 31, 1953	
(See Balance Sheet, Table I, A)	1,815,962.23
ESTIMATE FOR 1954	
Receipts: 1953 Collection in Switzerland (net product) . . .	653,705.04*
Total	2,469,667.38
<i>Commitments and Expenditure:</i>	
Commitments prior to December 31, 1953	1,470,731.20
Initial outlay for relief actions in 1954 . . .	220,000.—
	1,690,731.20
Available for commitments as from January 1954	778,936.18

* In order to compare the result of the 1953 Collection in Switzerland (accounts closed early in December) with the result of the 1952 Collection (Fr. 872,444.19) there should be added to the above amount (*) Fr. 274,133.