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The *Welfare Service*, which deals with social questions of a difficult nature and cares for the sick or incapacitated members of the staff, and those who have reached the age of retirement, was actively engaged throughout the year.

10. MAIL

From the beginning of the year until the end of December 1954, the mail registered at the ICRC headquarters amounted to 225,376 letters, postcards, telegrams, lists of prisoners, enquiry cards for missing persons, family messages and various documents. The incoming and outgoing figures were as follows :—

Mail received : 106,626 Mail despatched : 118,750

Total : 225,376

II. Financial position of the ICRC

The financial position of the ICRC at the end of December 1954, and information in connection with the accounts and budget are indicated in the following tables :

Table I. Balance Sheet as on December 31, 1954.

Table II. General Income and Expenditure Account for 1954.

Table III. Contributions for the regular financing of the ICRC made in 1954 by Governments and National Red Cross Societies.

Table IV. Reserves and Provisions in 1954.

Table V. Summary estimate of ordinary ICRC expenditure and receipts for 1955.

Table VI. General Account for Relief Actions.

The annual accounts of the ICRC have been verified by a firm of official auditors, as certified at the foot of Tables I and II.

It will be noted from Table II that—

— <i>expenditure</i> for 1954 amounting to . . .	Sw. Fr. 3,573,984.14
(estimated expenditure for 1954 Sw. Fr. 3,592,800) was only covered	
— by <i>receipts</i> to the extent of	" " 1,867,597.99
— and in consequence the <i>deficit</i> amounts to	Sw. Fr. 1,706,386.15

The receipts in 1954, concerning previous budgetary years, nevertheless amounted to Sw. Fr. 258,920.80.

These amounts were transferred to the Reserve for General Risks (See Table IV), which was also credited with sundry refunds for actions undertaken in previous years, amounting to Sw. Fr. 1,270,000. The balance of this account thus shows a decrease of Sw. Fr. 208,705.45 as compared to the position on December 31, 1953.

The funds under Reserves and Provisions Account constitute the essential working capital required by the ICRC in order to meet current expenditure and, in particular, to enable it to undertake unforeseen activities which international events may make it necessary to assume, in some cases well before the necessary funds have been placed at its disposal.

The International Committee's intervention in Korea, for instance, required the advance by the Committee of considerable amounts, which contributed in part to the budgetary deficits of the past few years.

This example reveals the gravity of the financial problem with which the ICRC may be faced at any moment, when called upon to assume immediately, and in any place, the duties conferred upon it by the Geneva Conventions of 1949.

Table V gives a summary estimate for 1955. By careful calculation, the estimated expenditure has been again reduced, but leaves

no margin for any unforeseen expenditure which the ICRC may be called upon to assume in the course of the financial year.

In regard to the General Account for Relief Actions (Table VI), a summary of the relief supplies distributed by the ICRC in 1954 will be found on page 44.

The ICRC thanks the donors again most sincerely for the tangible and generous proof of their interest in its work which it receives from them year after year.

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

(Financial and budgetary position of the ICRC as on December 31, 1954)

BALANCE SHEET AS ON

ASSETS

	Sw. Fr.	Sw. Fr.
AVAILABLE AND REALISABLE		
Cash in hand	18,223.21	
Postal Cheque Account	31,932.08	
Balance at Swiss Banks	1,238,884.28	
Foreign currency holdings	396,527.45	
Public Securities and other deposits at the Swiss National Bank	11,285,451.05	
	12,971,018.07	
Funds received in connection with the Japanese Peace Treaty, deposited in various banks (Trust Fund) . .	11,063,756.70	24,034,774.77
EARMARKED		
Advances to ICRC Delegations and Delegates abroad . .	207,794.90	
National Red Cross Societies, Governments and official Organisations	708,443.05	
Sundry debtors, advances and repayable costs	436,535.74	
Temporary assets (costs paid in advance)	33,617.10	
Pharmaceutical and other stocks for relief	51,071.04	
Reserve stocks	239,804.50	1,677,266.33
OTHER ASSETS (nominal)		
Capital share in "Foundation for the Organisation of Red Cross Transports"	1.—	
Furniture and office equipment	1.—	2.—
MEMO-ACCOUNT		
Allocation to ICRC Personnel Provident Fund		1,157,783.34
		26,869,826.44
Debtor for security		400,000.—

Table I

DECEMBER 31, 1954

LIABILITIES

	Sw. Fr.	Sw. Fr.
COMMITMENTS		
General account for relief work	2,022,121.74	
ICRC Delegations and Delegates abroad	4,666.90	
National Red Cross Societies, Governments and official Organisations	69,250.01	
Sundry creditors and temporary liabilities	741,313.54	
Swiss Confederation Loan	3,000,000.—	
	5,837,352.19	
Deposit (Trust Fund: Art. 16 of the Japanese Peace Treaty)	11,063,756.70	16,901,108.89
RESERVES AND PROVISIONS		
Guarantee Fund	3,000,000.—	
Reserve for action in case of conflict	5,000,000.—	
Reserve for general risks	521,129.71	
Provision for amortization of reserve stocks	239,804.50	
Provision for the XIXth International Red Cross Conference	50,000.—	8,810,934.21
MEMO-ACCOUNT		
Allocations to ICRC Personnel Provident Fund (to be refunded by annual allocations to the Reserve for general risks)		1,157,783.34
		26,869,826.44
Guarantee in favour of the "Foundation for the Organisation of Red Cross Transports"		400,000.—

We have verified the annual accounts for 1954 of the International Committee of the Red Cross, and certify that the above Balance Sheet as on December 31, 1954, 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 2, 1955.

SOCIÉTÉ FIDUCIAIRE ROMANDE OFOR S.A.
E. ILG P. HAENNI

GENERAL INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

EXPENDITURE

	To 1954	Total
	Sw. Fr.	Sw. Fr.
OVERHEAD EXPENSES AT GENEVA HEADQUARTERS		
Allowances, salaries and wages	1,906,657.55	
Family and cost of living allowances, insurance and other social charges	617,471.75	
Postage, telegrams, telephone	74,419.30	
Equipment, maintenance and general supplies	121,743.55	
Upkeep of cars and lorries	49,014.30	
Reception of visitors and travelling expenses in Switzerland	41,157.60	
Sundry expenditure	80,872.95	
		2,891,337.—
SPECIAL EXPENSES		
Publication, information	129,753.82	
Allowance for expenses, Members of the Presidential Council	49,416.—	
Red Cross Conferences and Meetings	38,798.95	
Commission of Experts	23,415.25	
Missions from Geneva	80,233.80	
		321,617.82
DELEGATIONS ABROAD		
Salaries and insurance of delegates	104,411.90	
Maintenance and travelling expenses	97,783.20	
Overhead expenses	158,834.22	
		361,029.32
<i>Total Expenses . . .</i>		3,573,984.14
Transfer to the Reserve for general risks of receipts in 1954 concerning previous years		258,920.80
		3,832,904.94

Table II

ACCOUNT AS ON DECEMBER 31, 1954

RECEIPTS

	To 1954	To previous years	Total
	Sw. Fr.	Sw. Fr.	Sw. Fr.
CONTRIBUTIONS AND GIFTS TOWARDS FINANCING OF THE GENERAL WORK			
Contributions by Governments	841,434.90	218,115.97	1,059,550.87
Contributions by National Red Cross Societies	286,474.44	17,333.75	303,808.19
Sundry donations	337,913.18	380.04	338,293.22
INCOME FROM INVESTMENTS			
Interests from Public Securities and Banks .	67,569.16	108.30	67,677.46
Income from ICRC Foundation	28,047.—		28,047.—
SUMS RECOVERED AND SUNDRY RECEIPTS			
Sums recovered	269,668.03	19,210.19	288,878.22
Sundry receipts	36,491.28	3,772.55	40,263.83
<i>Total Receipts</i> . . .	1,867,597.99	258,920.80	2,126,518.79
DEFICIT FOR 1954	1,706,386.15		1,706,386.15
(Written off by withdrawal from Reserve for General Risks)			
	3,573,984.14	258,920.80	3,832,904.94

We certify that the above General Income and Expenditure Account of the International Committee of the Red Cross for 1954, has been drawn up on the basis of the Annual Accounts for 1954, which have been audited by us and found true.

Geneva, March 2, 1955.

SOCIÉTÉ FIDUCIAIRE ROMANDE OFOR S.A.

E. ILG

P. HAENNI

Table III

CONTRIBUTIONS TOWARDS THE REGULAR FINANCING OF THE ICRC
MADE IN 1954 BY GOVERNMENTS AND NATIONAL RED CROSS SOCIETIES

Countries	For 1954		For previous years	
	Governments	Red Cross Societies	Governments	Red Cross Societies
	Sw.Fr.	Sw.Fr.	Sw.Fr.	Sw.Fr.
Australia	48,822.35	25,680.—		
Austria	8,375.—	2,100.—		
Belgium		2,628.—		
Brazil	3,300.—			
Burma			12,800.— (52/53)	
Canada	66,225.—	32,587.50		
Ceylon	3,046.10			
Columbia	13,601.—		1,235.— (balance 1953)	
Costa Rica		480.—		
Cuba				2,143.75 (1953)
Denmark		2,000.—	10,000.— (1953)	
Dominican Republic		600.—		
Ecuador	3,575.—	700.—		
Egypt			30,000.— (1953)	
Ethiopia		1,080.—		
Finland		3,480.—		
France	34,500.—			
Germany (Fed. Rep.)		13,513.50		
Greece			5,093.02 (1953)	
Guatemala		600.—		
Haiti	1,800.—			
Honduras		480.—		
Iceland		500.—		
India		1,366.87	68,531.25 (1953)	
Ireland		1,560.—		
Israel			2,000.— (balance 1953)	
Japan				10,000.— (1953)
Jugoslavia	7,000.—			
Lebanon			3,289.50 (1953)	
Liechtenstein	2,500.—		2,500.— (1953)	
Luxemburg	2,000.—	600.—		
Mexico	17,150.—			
Netherlands		20,000.—		
New Zealand		6,039.45		
Norway	10,000.—	3,000.—	10,000.— (1953)	
Pakistan	12,900.—			
Philippines		3,840.—		
Portugal	10,000.—			
San Salvador		132.—		
C.F.	244,794.45	122,967.32	145,448.77	12,983.75

Countries	For 1954		For previous years	
	Governments	Red Cross Societies	Governments	Red Cross Societies
B.F.	Sw. Fr. 244,794.45	Sw.Fr. 122,967.32	Sw.Fr. 145,448.77	Sw.Fr. 12,983.75
Saudi Arabia . . .	8,580.—			
South Africa . . .	48,760.—	14,628.—		
Spain		2,500.—		
Sweden	25,170.—			
Switzerland	500,000.—			
Syria		1,560.—		
Thailand	12,000.—	1,371.62		
Turkey		11,880.—		
United Kingdom :				
London		24,380.—	48,800.— (1953)	
North. Rhodesia .	2,130.45		3,052.20 (1953)	
South. Rhodesia .			20,815.— (1953)	4,350.— (1953)
United States		107,187.50		
Venezuela				
	841,434.90	286,474.44	218,115.97	17,333.75

N. B. Various contributions for 1954 which were received after the closing of the accounts for this fiscal year will be included in the report for 1955.

Table IV

RESERVES AND PROVISIONS AS ON DECEMBER 31, 1954

	Movement in 1954		Credit Balances
	Debit	Credit	
RESERVE FOR GENERAL RISKS :	Sw. Fr.	Sw. Fr.	Sw. Fr.
Balance as on December 31, 1953			729,835.16
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		1,270,000.—	
Transfer of receipts in 1954 concerning previous years		258,920.80	
Sundry	31,240.10		
Withdrawal for writing off the deficit for 1954	1,706,386.15		
	1,737,626.25	1,528,920.80	
Debit balance	208,705.45		208,705.45
RESERVE FOR GENERAL RISKS, Credit balance			521,129.71
GUARANTEE FUND			3,000,000.—
RESERVE FOR ACTION IN CASE OF CONFLICT.			5,000,000.—
PROVISION FOR AMORTIZATION OF RESERVE STOCKS			239,804.50
PROVISION FOR THE XIXTH INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS CONFERENCE .			50,000.—
Position as on December 31, 1954 (See Table I, Liabilities)			8,810,934.21

SUMMARY ESTIMATE OF ORDINARY EXPENDITURE

ESTIMATED EXPENDITURE	For 1955	(Estimates for 1954)
	Sw. Fr.	Sw. Fr.
OVERHEAD EXPENSES		
Allowances, salaries and wages	1,733,100.—	(1,866,000.—)
Family and cost-of-living allowances, social charges	552,500.—	(591,400.—)
Postage, telegrams, telephone	77,000.—	(65,000.—)
Equipment, maintenance and general supplies .	125,900.—	(128,800.—)
Upkeep of cars and lorries	48,600.—	(54,300.—)
Reception of visitors and travelling expenses in Switzerland	40,000.—	(44,000.—)
Sundry expenses	77,300.—	(82,800.—)
OTHER EXPENSES		
Publications, information	170,000.—	(168,000.—)
Allowances for expenses, Members of the Presidential Council	49,500.—	(50,900.—)
Red Cross Conferences and meetings	28,000.—	(32,000.—)
Expert commissions and consultations	35,000.—	(30,000.—)
Missions from Geneva	100,000.—	(95,000.—)
Delegations abroad	385,200.—	(354,600.—)
Sundry expenses	23,000.—	(30,000.—)
	3,445,100.—	(3,592,800.—)

The above estimates of expenditure have been established and studied with the most careful attention. They do not include any margin for extraordinary expenditure, and would be subject to appropriate revision in the event of any important change of the situation in the course of the fiscal year.

Table V

AND RECEIPTS OF THE ICRC FOR 1955

ESTIMATED RECEIPTS	For 1955
	Sw. Fr.
RECEIPTS CONCERNING THE CURRENT YEAR	
Contributions from Governments	832,300.—*
Contributions from National Red Cross Societies	284,700.—*
Sundry donations	335,000.—
Income from invested funds	104,600.—
Sundry refunds and receipts	319,300.—
Total . . .	1,875,900.—
RECEIPTS CONCERNING PREVIOUS YEARS	
Contributions from Governments	333,700.—
Contributions from National Red Cross Societies	25,300.—
Sundry refunds and receipts	12,000.—
Total . . .	371,000.—
<i>Grand total</i>	2,246,900.—
<i>The deficit between receipts and expenditure therefore amounts to . . .</i>	1,198,200.—
	3,445,100.—

* The amount of contributions from Governments and National Red Cross Societies for 1955 is estimated at Sw.Fr. 1,476,000.—.

Experience having shown, however, that a certain percentage of the contributions do not reach the ICRC before the first months of the following year, the estimation has been adjusted to Sw.Fr. 1,117,000.—.

Table VI

GENERAL ACCOUNT FOR RELIEF ACTIONS

	Sw. Fr.
Position as on December 31, 1954 (see Table I, Liabilities) . . .	2,022,121.74
This amount includes the net product of the collection in Switzerland, amounting to Sw.Fr. 646,356.90.	
Commitments at the present date amount to	<u>1,372,457.87</u>
Available for future commitments	649,663.87