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PUBLICATIONS AND INFORMATION

REVUE INTERNATIONALE DE LA CROIX ROUGE

Having reached the age of retirement, M. Louis Demolis, Editor of the *Revue internationale de la Croix Rouge*, relinquished his post at the end of 1954, to take up private work.

M. Jean-G. Lossier, who had given his collaboration to the *Revue internationale* for some years, was appointed Editor from January 1, 1955.

The *Revue internationale de la Croix Rouge*, the official organ of the Red Cross, continued, in 1955, to publish articles on the existence in oriental doctrines and philosophy of the idea that the human being in distress, whether friend or enemy, should be helped. Another special number in Arabic, about fifty pages, was published ; it was prepared in conjunction with the National Societies of the Middle East and was sent to many organisations and eminent people, and has thrown much useful light on the community of ideas in the Red Cross and the Red Crescent.

In particular, the *Revue internationale* published an important work by M. Jean-S. Pictet, Director for General Affairs of the ICRC, entitled " Red Cross Principles ", articles on the identification and protection of children in time of war, and others, from various sources, on questions connected with international law. It also published pages contributed by M. Max Huber concerning the future

revision of the Hague Conventions relating to warfare, and by Professor Gilbert Gidel on the protection of life-boats, also several articles by authors of various nationalities on the subject of the neutrality of medical personnel. Reference may also be made to numerous articles such as those entitled "Romain Rolland et la Croix-Rouge", "Diffusion des Conventions de Genève", and "Diversité des milieux culturels et action humanitaire".

Under the heading "Nouvelles de Sociétés nationales", the *Revue internationale* published articles written for it by Red Cross Societies, and information on their work. As customary, under the headings "Faits et Documents" and "Bibliographie", it described the principal congresses and meetings held during the year, in particular those attended by delegates of the ICRC, and reviewed works on questions of humanitarian interest, and international law.

The principal articles also appeared in the English, Spanish and German Supplements, and a number of information notes were reproduced in publications of National Red Cross Societies. The ICRC continued the exchange of the *Revue internationale* for other publications; it had the satisfaction of noting that an increasing number of persons and organisations, in all countries, are now showing interest in the Revue.

INFORMATION.

The ICRC makes use of modern methods of information without any great outlay. It is on excellent terms with the Swiss Press, the Geneva correspondents of foreign newspapers, and many editorial offices outside Switzerland. Nor does it neglect information diffused by sound track or screen. The documents circulated are often accompanied by photographs illustrating action taken on behalf of the victims of conflicts. At the request of National Red Cross Societies, the ICRC films "Inter Arma Caritas", "Homeless in Palestine" and "Brothers All" have been shown in both hemispheres. The ICRC makes considerable use of the radio, and even television; since 1948 it has had the privilege of using its own wave-length, and, since 1955, its own "Studio Max Huber",

in Geneva, fitted up with the most modern apparatus. It also has the facility of using Radio-Genève and Schwarzenburg Broadcasting Stations.

It is thus in a position to prepare, in time of peace, for its mission in wartime, in order that it may broadcast, with all possible speed, information concerning military and civilian victims of the events.

Information has to be objective, and be confined to facts, but it does not merely consist of the description of a certain number of practical undertakings, carried out on the field, which are always easy to grasp by the general public. It also has to illustrate the work pursued by the ICRC, of a legal and scientific nature, with the object of bringing continual improvement to international humanitarian law.

The task of supplying information is not always easy ; it too often happens that news is published in the Press, without sufficient consideration, which immediately gives rise to partisan controversy, compromises the action of the ICRC and is, finally, harmful to those whom the ICRC is trying to help. Discretion must therefore be exercised in supplying information, in the interest of the victims concerned, even if the ICRC were to be wrongfully accused of passivity.

Members of the ICRC, the Directorate and the delegations, have continued to give lectures on the International Committee's work and the provisions of the Geneva Conventions, on various occasions, both in Switzerland and abroad. The lectures were given by M. Léopold Boissier, M^{lle} Lucie Odier, MM. Rodolfo Olgiati, Paul Ruegger, Frédéric Siordet, Members of the ICRC, MM. Borsinger, Bovey, Gaillard, M^{lle} Pfrter, MM. Pictet, Pilloud, Schoenholzer and Wilhelm, members of the Directorate services, MM. Angst, Bossard, Maag, Mittner and Moll, delegates or former delegates of the ICRC.

As customary each year, the messages sent out by the President of the ICRC on International Red Cross Day and New Year's Day were recorded and broadcast by a great number of stations throughout the world.

PUBLICATIONS.

The following documents were published by the ICRC in the course of the year :

Les Conventions de Genève du 12 août 1949 — Commentaire, published under the general editorship of M. J. Pictet, Doctor of Laws, Director for General Affairs of the ICRC. (Fourth Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War)—Geneva ¹

Les Principes de la Croix Rouge, by Jean-S. Pictet. Preface by M. Max Huber, Honorary President of the ICRC—Geneva 1955, 158 p.

The Slave Question, by Henri Coursier, Legal Department of the ICRC (in English)—Geneva 1955.

Diffusion des Conventions de Genève de 1949, by J. de Preux, Member of the Legal Department of the ICRC, Geneva 1955, 90 p.

The Retention and Relief of Medical Personnel and Chaplains—Model Agreement (French, English, Spanish, German and Russian)—Geneva 1955, 24 p.

Commission of Experts for the study of the question of the application of humanitarian principles in the event of internal disturbances (Geneva, October 3-8, 1955)—Geneva 1955, 8 p.

Annual Report for 1954 (French, English, Spanish and German)—Geneva 1955, 89 p.

¹ This publication will be available early in 1956.