

**Zeitschrift:** Annual report / International Committee of the Red Cross  
**Herausgeber:** International Committee of the Red Cross  
**Band:** - (1956)

**Rubrik:** Contribution to the work of International Organisations

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## V. CONTRIBUTION TO THE WORK OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

The ICRC carefully followed the work of the United Nations, specialised agencies and non-governmental organisations in all common fields of action, and particularly in connection with the large-scale emergency relief actions in Hungary and during the Suez conflict, described at the beginning of the present Report.

A substantial extract is given below from the message broadcast on May 8, 1956<sup>1</sup> by the Secretary General of the United Nations, which lays stress upon the universal character of the Geneva institutions.

*In my capacity as Secretary General of the United Nations, I attach great importance to the leading part played by the Red Cross—the ICRC and the League of Red Cross Societies whose members are composed of 100 million men, women and young people in 74 countries—an organisation which in its daily work gives practical meaning to the principle of the dignity and value of the human person set forth in the Charter of the United Nations. On several occasions during the past ten years the community of nations has appealed to the Red Cross in order that some of its members in distress should be given the aid and relief they needed. Whether in disasters or political upheavals which have left millions of persons without shelter or assistance, the response has always been the same: prompt acceptance of the task followed by immediate and practical relief, given without discrimination, which has enabled a great many human lives to be saved.*

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<sup>1</sup> International Red Cross Day.

During the year to which this Report refers, the ICRC sent observers to the principal conferences held at the European Office of the United Nations, among others the 22nd Session of the Economic and Social Council<sup>1</sup>, the conference for the establishment of an additional Convention for the abolition of slavery (Slavery Conference, 1956)<sup>2</sup> and the sessions of the Executive Committee of the High Commissioner for Refugees<sup>3</sup>. The ICRC kept in useful contact with the International Labour Office, the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation, the World Health Organisation and the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund. It also co-operated with other organisations, governmental or non-governmental, including the Intergovernmental Committee for European Migration (ICEM) and the European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC).

During the past six years a whole network of international organisations dealing with humanitarian and social problems has developed. The assistance which these organisations can give is officially recognised by the United Nation's Charter. The ICRC has kept in contact with the majority in order to assist in giving all those who suffer the aid they require, without discrimination.

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<sup>1</sup> Mr. F. Siordet, Vice-President of the ICRC, and Mr. F. de Reynold.

<sup>2</sup> Mr. H. Coursier.

<sup>3</sup> Mr. R. Olgiati, Member of the ICRC, and Mr. H. Beckh.