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to ensure the best possible communications between hospital ships on the one hand, and land, naval and air forces on the other. The Italian Government drew up a first set of draft regulations, which it was intended to submit to a Committee of Experts convened for that purpose; due to various circumstances, however, the meeting could not take place.

In the course of 1958, the question was taken up anew by Swedish experts, who submitted to the ICRC a series of proposals with a view to implementing the 1949 resolution. The Governments directly interested were approached as well as the Swiss Federal Government, which acts as depositary for the Geneva Conventions. Finally, it was agreed to convene a meeting of experts with specialized knowledge of telecommunication at sea in war-time. It should thus be possible to achieve a positive result.

## **RELATIONS WITH RED CROSS INSTITUTIONS**

In 1958, as always in the past, the ICRC remained in close contact with the various National Red Cross (Red Crescent, Red Lion and Sun) Societies as well as with their federative body, the League of Red Cross Societies. In addition to the joint monthly meetings of the directorate of the League and the ICRC, held alternately at each institution's headquarters to discuss matters of common interest, various meetings took place to consider special subjects.

### **Official recognition of National Societies**

Under its Statutes, the ICRC is instructed to grant official recognition to new National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies; in 1958 it recognized two Societies: the Moroccan Red Crescent on August 7, and the Libyan Red Crescent on October 5. These two Societies thus became members of the International Red Cross.

### **Relations with National Societies**

The New Delhi Conference, in autumn 1957, gave the members and staff of the ICRC an opportunity to establish and renew contact with

the National Red Cross (Red Crescent, Red Lion and Sun) Societies. Following this great international assembly, several ICRC representatives visited National Societies, and in 1958, therefore, there were fewer "courtesy visits" by ICRC delegates. Nevertheless, among the National Societies visited by representatives of the International Committee, mention may be made of the Red Cross of Belgium, the Netherlands, Spain, Denmark, Sweden, Poland, Rumania and Bulgaria.

In December, two groups of ICRC staff members made a study visit to the headquarters of the Swiss Red Cross at Berne. They listened to many interesting talks and were able to have useful exchanges of views.

Numerous officials of National Societies visited the ICRC headquarters. They included the following: Mrs. A. Mesaros (Rumanian Red Cross), Mrs. I. Domanska (Polish Red Cross), Mr. H. Asfahani (Egyptian Red Crescent), Mr. G. Gospodinov (Bulgarian Red Cross), Mr. N.I. Tchikalenko (Alliance of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies of the USSR), Mr. G. Vermesch (French Red Cross), Dr. C. Zouiten (Tunisian Red Crescent), H. E. Mr. Djemil Mardem Bey (Syrian Red Crescent), Dr. L. S. Robertson (Red Cross of the Union of South Africa), Dr. W. Ludwig (Red Cross of the German Democratic Republic) and Dr. D. Poitevin (Guatemalan Red Cross).

In September, the ICRC received participants at the session of the Executive Committee of the League of Red Cross Societies. It also received two study-visitors, namely Miss B. Viera Freitas, of the Uruguayan Red Cross, and Mr. F. de Soto Oriol, of the Spanish Red Cross<sup>1</sup>. They both spent several weeks at the ICRC headquarters and were able to follow the Committee's various activities.

## **RELATIONS OF THE ICRC WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS**

Because of its many humanitarian activities in such diverse parts of the world, the ICRC has to maintain frequent contact with the numerous international organisations, and this often gives rise to fruitful co-operation on questions of common interest.

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<sup>1</sup> Mr. de Soto Oriol unfortunately died soon after his return to Spain.