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I. PRACTICAL ACTIVITIES

Relief Actions

The world situation in 1959, although relatively calm, did not result in any marked decrease in the activities of the International Committee of the Red Cross, as compared with the previous year. Conflicts or their after-effects continued to assign to it many and often heavy tasks and gave it frequent opportunities to assist and protect numerous victims of the events, as it has been doing for so long in the five continents. In addition to these so-called " traditional " activities, however, the ICRC has undertaken others of a relatively new description which it considered to be in conformity with its humanitarian principles and the resolutions of the International Conference of the Red Cross.

The ICRC was very active in 1959; the following pages describe these activities which have been grouped by geographical areas as in our previous report. It will be seen once again that the International Committee remains faithful to its universal vocation in making its services available to all nations of the world, when so required.