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This Commission drew up a first report, which was sent to all the National Red Cross Societies, requesting their opinion on this important matter. Replies, some of them very extensive and detailed, were received from twenty-six Societies.

The Standing Commission having requested the Study Group to draw up a new version of the Principles, taking into consideration the remarks made by the National Societies, the Group submitted a second text to the Standing Commission, which adopted it, after a few amendments on October 6, 1960.

In order to ensure the universal character of this declaration of the Red Cross Principles, the text will first be submitted to the Council of Delegates to be held in Prague in October 1961. If quasi-unanimous agreement is achieved, the XXth International Conference of the Red Cross—the Conference of the Red Cross Centenary—which is to meet in Geneva in 1963, will be asked to give its general and final approval of the text.

Convening of the International Conferences of the Red Cross

The Standing Commission of the International Red Cross asked a special Commission, composed—as that which prepared the drawing up of the Red Cross Principles—to examine the methods of convening the International Conferences of the Red Cross, in order to avoid a repetition of the difficulties and incidents which arose in connection with the Conferences of Toronto and New Delhi in 1952 and 1957. After examining the question, this Working Party drew up a report together with proposals, which the Standing Commission adopted, without appreciable amendments, at its meeting of October 6, 1960.

RELATIONS WITH RED CROSS INSTITUTIONS

In 1960 as in previous years, the ICRC maintained close relations with the National Red Cross (Red Crescent, Red Lion and Sun) Societies, as well as with their federation, the League of Red Cross Societies. The Directorate of the ICRC and the Secretariat of the League continued to hold joint weekly meetings, alternately at

the headquarters of each institution, in order to discuss matters of common interest. Various other meetings were held to examine special cases.

Official recognition

On October 20, 1960, the ICRC officially recognized the Cambodian Red Cross Society. The total number of recognised National Societies thereby increased to 85.

National Societies

As can be seen on reviewing the various aspects of its activity, the ICRC remains in frequent and close touch with the National Red Cross (Red Crescent, Red Lion and Sun) Societies. Their support is often the condition for the success of its missions and it appreciates their co-operation in performing its duties.

Moreover, the ICRC endeavoured to extend these relations with the National Societies by proving its interest in their activities and by keeping them informed of its own work. The Committee had pleasure in welcoming their representatives in Geneva and in taking every opportunity of visiting them

Thus, in May, in reply to an invitation, Mr. Léopold Boissier, President, Dr. Marcel Junod, Vice-President, and Mr. R. Gallopin, Executive Director, visited the Polish Red Cross. They subsequently went to Moscow, where they were received by the Alliance of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies of the USSR.

On the return journey, Mr. Gallopin stopped in Prague, where he was the guest of the Czechoslovak Red Cross.

During his mission to Teheran¹, Mr. Siordet had interviews with the leaders of the Red Lion and Sun Society, in particular with its Secretary-General, Mr. Naficy. He was able to note that the work then in progress as the result of the earthquake of Lar was being efficiently carried out. He also visited various establishments of this Society.

During his stay in Cairo, he had several meetings with leaders of the Red Crescent Society of the UAR and visited the Society's installations.

¹ See p. 19.

Mr. Siordet then went to Addis Ababa, where he represented the ICRC at the celebrations which marked the 25th anniversary of the Ethiopian Red Cross.

Among other visits to National Societies, we should like to mention Dr. Marcel Junod's mission to the Far East and to North America. Finally, members of the Directorate or of the staff paid visits to the National Societies of the following countries : Austria, Belgium, Czechoslovakia, France, German Democratic Republic, German Federal Republic, Great Britain, Greece, Hungary, India, Italy, Laos, Monaco, Netherlands, Spain, Switzerland, Thailand, Tunisia, Vietnam and Yugoslavia.

The annual session of the Executive Committee of the League of Red Cross Societies, which was held in Geneva at the beginning of October, offered the ICRC the opportunity of organizing an information meeting at its headquarters in which the representatives of 39 National Societies attending the session took part.

Moreover, during the year, the ICRC successively received various other leaders of National Societies, in particular Mr. Antonio Oriol y Urquijo, President of the Spanish Red Cross, Lieut.-General W. A. Burki, Vice-President of the Pakistan Red Cross, accompanied by Mr. Wajid Ali Shah, Chairman of the Managing Body, Mr. Hussein El Shafei, President of the Red Crescent Society of the United Arab Republic, Princess Lalla Malika, President of the Moroccan Red Crescent, and finally Queen Sirikit, President of the Thai Red Cross, who accompanied the King of Thailand when the Committee had the honour of his visit.

Numerous other representatives of the National Societies, as well as nurses or " Juniors " were received at the headquarters of the ICRC in order to discuss questions of common interest with its leaders or merely to get in touch with the founding institution of the Red Cross.

Several personalities paid more extensive visits to the ICRC, in particular Mr. Sam Krakow, Director of the International Relations Office of the American National Red Cross, Miss Joan Thompson, Assistant Adviser for International Relations of the British Red Cross, nine members of the Secretariat of the French Red Cross, Dr. Abdullatif Al-Badri, Medical Adviser of the Iraqi Red Crescent, Miss M. B. Murphy, Assistant Secretary-General of the Irish Red

Cross and Mr. K. Watanabe, of the Department of Foreign Relations of the Japanese Red Cross.

Administration of Funds

The ICRC administers a number of funds whose receipts are intended to be used for humanitarian purposes. In 1960, it distributed a sum of 28,000 Swiss francs, representing the receipts of the Empress Augusta Fund, among thirteen National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

Moreover, at its annual meeting, in February 1960, the Joint Commission of the Empress Shôken Fund, which is composed of representatives of the ICRC and the League, allocated the annual receipts of this fund to the National Societies which had submitted circumstantial applications. The beneficiaries were the National Societies of Ceylon, India, Jordan, Libya, South Africa and Thailand.

RELATIONS WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

United Nations

As in previous years, the ICRC continued to remain in close contact with the United Nations Organization and in particular with those of its specialized agencies whose activities are of a humanitarian character. It was therefore in constant touch with the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees. It also sent observers to the following meetings and conferences held in Geneva during the year : 25th and 26th sessions of the Executive Board of WHO ; 16th session of the UN Commission of Human Rights ; 3rd and 4th sessions of the Programme Committee of the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees ; 13th World Health Assembly ; 30th session of the UN Economic and Social Council.

Other organizations

The ICRC also maintains relations with some international governmental organizations not connected with the United Nations.