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## I. PRACTICAL ACTIVITIES

### Relief actions

The relief actions carried out by the International Committee of the Red Cross<sup>1</sup> during 1960 once more illustrate the universality of the movement which sprung from Henry Dunant's noble initiative. They embraced the most distant parts of the world, while their character itself was highly varied. In some cases, they were what one may term "classic" actions, whereas on other occasions the ICRC had to take yet untrodden paths. However, the International Committee was always mindful to act in strict accordance with its almost 100-year-old tradition and its humanitarian ideal.

### AFRICA

#### Congo.

The principal activity of the International Committee of the Red Cross on the African continent during 1960 was centred in the ex-Belgian Congo, where its work was both manifold and varied.

At the very outset of the disturbances which followed the proclamation of independence of the Congo, and in agreement with the Congolese authorities, two Delegates of the International Committee proceeded to the spot in order to take the necessary steps to help the victims of the events.

The first emergency action carried out by the International Committee in the Congo aimed at obtaining respect for the Red Cross emblem protecting neutral hospital zones set up on the initiative of

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<sup>1</sup> For the sake of brevity the International Committee of the Red Cross will be designated by the initials ICRC.