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broadcast a highly successful report to millions of American television viewers, on this, one of the finest actions of the ICRC.

### **Visitors Section**

Since the celebration of the Red Cross Centenary in 1963, the number of visitors to ICRC headquarters has been steadily increasing. It therefore became necessary to organise a Visitors Section, as part of the Information Department.

There were about 2,500 visitors to the ICRC in 1964. They included many of the leaders and members of National Societies as well as diplomats, representatives of international institutions or voluntary agencies, and particularly student groups or other youth movements desirous of learning about the ICRC and the Red Cross movement.

### **INTERNATIONAL REVIEW OF THE RED CROSS**

In 1964 the *International Review of the Red Cross*, the official ICRC publication, gave the texts of some of the speeches delivered at Geneva University in the framework of public lectures organised in August 1963 on the occasion of the Red Cross Centenary. The series opened with the lecture entitled "A Unique Organization, Independent and United: The Red Cross," delivered by Mr. F. Siordet, member of the ICRC and President of the Centenary Commission of the Red Cross in Switzerland. This was followed by lectures by Mrs. S. Gabru, member of the Executive Committee of the Ethiopian Red Cross, Mrs. A. Magnussen, National Director of the American Red Cross Nursing Service, and Mrs. G. T. Pecson, former President of the Philippine National Red Cross; their subjects were respectively "The Amazing Development of the Red Cross," "Nurses in National Defence," "The Red Cross, Link Between Individuals and the Peoples of the World."

A number of articles were devoted to the anniversary of the first Geneva Convention which, as is common knowledge, was signed on August 22, 1864. In this connection, the August issue contains a study by Mr. J. Pictet, Director for General Affairs of the

ICRC, which brings out the “revolutionary” nature of this international treaty, the cornerstone even today of humanitarian law. An article entitled “In 1864” quoted the minutes of the first and last sessions of the Congress which drew up the “Convention for the Amelioration of the Condition of the Wounded in Armies in the Field” together with a speech which General Dufour, chairman of the meeting, delivered to the plenipotentiaries who attended. The same article conveys the wide coverage given by the press at that time to the signing of this important document. Also in connection with this anniversary, the *International Review* published one of Max Huber’s earlier articles in which he stressed the importance of this Convention and which he showed to be linked to the Red Cross movement. The *International Review* also gave an account of the ceremony which took place on August 22, 1964 in Lausanne at the Swiss National Exhibition, to commemorate the signing of the first Convention, and readers will also find therein the main passages of several speeches including the one delivered by Mr. L. Boissier, then President of the ICRC. We would also mention the article by Mr. W. Gruber, Secretary-General of the Baden-Württemberg Red Cross in the Federal Republic of Germany which explains the events organised in Stuttgart to celebrate the centenary of the oldest Red Cross organization.

The *International Review* also published other important studies. We might mention in particular: “Stoicism: School of Humanity,” “The Red Cross and Philately,” “Doctors in the Service of the International Red Cross.”

In so far as topical events are concerned, the *International Review* gave account of the main ICRC activities and published much information on missions in Algeria, Laos, Vietnam, and Japan. It informed its readers of the various phases of the large-scale action undertaken in the Yemen since the end of 1962, as well as that in Cyprus, where the ICRC has had a delegation since the beginning of 1964. These accounts were generally illustrated photographically.

Several National Societies sent the *Review* reports on ceremonies held in their own countries to commemorate the Red Cross Centenary. These were published under the heading “News from National Societies,” under which information was given on some of

their more interesting activities. In addition, the *International Review* devoted articles to humanitarian subjects and the work of various international organizations.

The English edition of the *Review* is presented in the same manner as the French. Since its inception in 1961, its circulation has been constantly increasing, thus confirming the success it achieved at the outset. As mentioned earlier, it is also illustrated. The Spanish and German supplements contain some of the main articles appearing in the *Review*, as well as information on ICRC activities and missions throughout the world.

## RADIOCOMMUNICATIONS

In the course of 1964, the ICRC was able to maintain contact with practically all quarters of the globe through its radio transmitting and receiving station at its headquarters. The station's call sign is HBC 88 and it has been in use mainly to keep in touch each day with the Uqhd field hospital in the North of the Yemen. It was also of signal service during the Congo events, for maintaining contact with the ICRC delegation.

The establishment of these links by radio was the fruit of lengthy negotiations over several years and of close co-operation between Red Cross radio specialists and the telecommunications authorities. In 1959, as an observer at the Administrative Radio Conference in Geneva, the ICRC submitted a report motivating and supporting a suggestion from the German Red Cross with a view to certain frequencies' being set aside for Red Cross use. The Conference unanimously adopted Recommendation No. 34 recognizing in particular " that for international relief work it is necessary that the National Red Cross Societies involved be able to communicate with each other, as well as with the International Committee of the Red Cross and the League of Red Cross Societies," and recommending that the necessary frequencies be assigned for this purpose.

After conclusive trials in the course of the year, the ICRC decided the time had come to associate National Societies with the organization of a world-wide Red Cross emergency radio-