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dispensary in rural areas. The balance was carried forward to the year 1968.

Once again the Japanese Government has repeated its generous gesture of 1966, when it contributed a special grant of 119,232 francs towards the Fund; in 1967 it bestowed a further donation of 119,889 francs. Thus, over the last two years, and thanks to these two special and generous gifts from the Japanese Government, the Empress Shôken Fund's capital has increased by 239,121 francs.

3. RELATIONS WITH INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

The UN and its Specialized Agencies

Throughout the year the ICRC maintained its close connection with the United Nations Organization, both at the New York headquarters and at the European headquarters in Geneva. On three occasions, Mr. Claude Pilloud, Director, went to New York to discuss problems of humanitarian law with the Secretariat.

In addition, on his way through New York, in April, the President of the International Committee, Mr. Samuel A. Gonard, accompanied by Mr. Basset, Assistant Director, paid a further visit to U Thant, the UN Secretary-General.

Mr. de Reynold and Mr. Nessi attended the 23rd session of the Human Rights Commission which met in Geneva from February 20 to March 23.

Mr. de Reynold was also our institution's observer to the 33rd session of the Economic and Social Council which was held in Geneva in July.

The ICRC was also represented at the 17th and 18th sessions in May and November of the Executive Committee of the programme of the High Commissioner for Refugees.

In addition Mr. de Reynold represented the International Committee at the World Health Assembly in Geneva last May; similarly he was our institution's observer to the 22nd and 23rd sessions of the WHO Executive Council in January and May.

Mr. Ammann, Assistant Director, attended the 3rd Freedom from Hunger Conference in Rome from October 30 to November 3, organized by the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization.

Inter-Governmental Organizations

Whilst in Addis Ababa in January for the seminar organized by the Ethiopian Red Cross in conjunction with the League of Red Cross Societies, ICRC delegate general for Africa, Georges Hoffmann, called on Mr. Dialo Telli, Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity.

Mr. de Preux, Adviser, Legal Department, represented our institution at the 4th international refresher course for junior medical officers at Munich in August, organized by the International Committee of Military Medicine and Pharmacy.

At the 27th and 28th sessions of the Inter-Governmental Committee for European Migration, in Geneva, in May and November, Mr. de Reynold was observer for the ICRC.

In addition, the International Committee was in close touch with the Geneva representative of the Arab League and with the Secretariat of the Council of Europe.

Non-Governmental Organizations

Mr. Siordet, Vice-President, was the ICRC's observer to the 12th Assembly of the World Veterans' Federation at The Hague at the beginning of October. Mr. Pilloud, ICRC Director, took part in the meeting of experts at the beginning of February in Paris with the mandate from the WVF to consider the legal status of combatants not wearing uniform.¹ Furthermore, the British Red Cross represented the ICRC at the 3rd WVF Conference in London on legislation relating to veterans.

Mr. de Reynold and Mr. Veuthey attended the inaugural meeting on July 10 of the World Conference in Geneva on "Peace

¹ See *International Review of the Red Cross*, October, November, December 1967 and January 1968.

through Law ", at which Mr. Boissier, former ICRC President, gave an address on the development of humanitarian law.

The International Press Institute held its 16th Assembly in Geneva last June; Mr. Gonard, ICRC President, was invited to address the meeting on the ICRC's present-day activities.

Mr. Coursier, former Legal Adviser, represented the institution at the 17th Assembly of the Association for the Study of the World Refugee Problems, which met in Istanbul last September.

The Polish Red Cross kindly represented the ICRC at the 5th Congress of the World Federation of the Deaf in Warsaw in August.

4. INFORMATION

Meeting of information officers.—On the initiative of the ICRC and sponsored jointly by the ICRC and the League of Red Cross Societies, information officers of National Societies from 12 European countries met at League headquarters from January 25 to 27. National Societies represented were of the following countries: Belgium, Denmark, Federal Republic of Germany, France, German Democratic Republic, Great Britain, Greece, Italy, Netherlands, Poland, Switzerland and Yugoslavia.

The Conference was inaugurated by Mr. G. Bordier, Vice-President of the ICRC, and Mr. H. Beer, Secretary-General of the League. The purpose of the meeting was particularly to examine anew the capitally important problem of Red Cross public relations. In this respect, it appears that the Conference really achieved its objective, since it enabled the heads of information services present to assess the extent and multiplicity of the tasks devolving on them. It also brought out the necessity of a closer co-operation between the information bodies of the international institutions of the Red Cross in Geneva and those of the National Societies. It was the general consensus that such conferences could usefully be held annually and that a larger number of National Societies should be encouraged to delegate their information officers to them. Other items dealt with were: Dissemination of Information; Radio Problems; Commemoration of World Red Cross Day;