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ters from the German Federal Republic, France, Great Britain and the USA.

In the sphere of the cinema properly speaking, the ICRC produced two films in colour on its action in Nigeria-Biafra. These two short-length sequences entitled " War and Hunger " and " Rescue " achieved a great success amongst the National Societies, as they have already ordered 19 copies of them.

Films made in previous years, also continued to be widely distributed, especially through the Red Cross Societies and television networks.

In view of the increasing demand for film showings at the ICRC and also in private institutions, schools, clubs, commercial centres, lectures and congresses, it has become necessary to increase the film library.

**Visitors.**—During the year, the Visitors Service received over 2,700 persons, of whom many were university groups, cultural and professional associations, notably from Africa, France, Federal Republic of Germany, Italy, Japan, Spain, Vietnam Republic, Sweden, Switzerland and the United States.

Apart from these different groups, the ICRC had pleasure in welcoming several members of National Societies and representatives of international institutions to its headquarters.

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

Published each month by the ICRC, this review is issued in French and English, in principle identical. There are also monthly supplements in German and Spanish in which can be found the more important articles and information on the ICRC's work and the Red Cross movement as a whole.

With descriptions of the ICRC's actions, news of the League and the National Societies, accounts of humanitarian work in the world and initiatives for the dissemination of the Geneva Conventions, reports of important Red Cross meetings, bibliographical items and numerous illustrations, the Review continued to be in 1968 a lively periodical in constant touch with topical news.

It published articles on law, social service and history by well-known jurists, such as Mr. J. Graven (Minimum rules for the protection of non-delinquent detainees), Mr. Meyrowitz (Reflections on the Centenary of the Declaration of St. Petersburg), Mr. J. Patrnoic (The Red Cross as a factor of peace). A study by Mrs. B. Peacey recalled the life and work of Josephine Butler, "the great feminist". In addition, two themes were the subject of detailed studies: the defence of Human Rights on the occasion of the International Year and universal understanding and the spirit of peace and how to spread them. In the same sense there appeared a comprehensive analysis on "youth and the Geneva Conventions".

The Florence Nightingale Medal is awarded every two years by the ICRC to several nurses of all nationalities whose distinguished services have been pointed out to it. The *Review* devoted an amply illustrated number to the twenty-first award, describing the circumstances in which the recipients had distinguished themselves.

In March, September and October, the ICRC suffered serious loss: the death of one of its members, Dr. A. Franceschetti, of two of its delegates in Nigeria, then a little later of Mr. Léopold Boissier, its former President. The *Review* paid tribute to their memory, recalling the total sacrifice which service in the Red Cross implies.

In conclusion, mention should be made of the column "In the Red Cross World" in which can be found information on the National Societies and on accounts of certain particularly original tasks at present being undertaken in the world under the emblems of the red cross, the red crescent and the red lion and sun. It should be pointed out that all continents have been represented here and accounts were also included of World Red Cross Day and of the Henry Dunant Institute. Similarly, articles appeared on seminars organized by the League of Red Cross Societies in Latin America, and under the heading "Miscellaneous" accounts were given of humanitarian activities carried out by governmental institutions or private organizations.

To prove the interest aroused by the *Review* amongst National Societies as well as in government circles, printing of this publication continues to increase for both the English and French editions. Readers are to be found more especially in circles concerned with questions of international law, the history of humanitarian ideas

and assistance to the victims of war and natural disasters. Recent numbers of the *Review* thus contain very extensive and varied information on the relief operation which requires most considerable forces, accomplished and continuing to be accomplished today in Nigeria by the ICRC and institutions allied with it in this large-scale enterprise.

## 6. RADIOCOMMUNICATIONS

The year 1968 was a turning point in the history of the ICRC radio station HBC 88.

Brought into service on 22 December 1963, this radiocommunications centre operated with unsophisticated and inexpensive equipment designed for occasional use a few hours each day. It gave fully satisfactory service until the end of 1967, both from the point of view of utility to the ICRC, thanks in particular to daily connection with the Yemen, and from that of the experience the ICRC was able to acquire.

The situation changed on 11 December 1967 when contact was first made by ICRC headquarters in Geneva with the operating base at Santa Isabel on the island of Fernando Poo. During the first half of 1968, traffic doubled; but no one expected it to increase fivefold during the second half of the year.

The number of messages, which was 800 in 1967, jumped in 1968 to the impressive figure of 4,387 radiograms, representing some 330,000 words. Communication on this scale by official telecommunications services to the Yemen, Fernando Poo and Biafra, assuming they were operative, would have cost, at the ordinary rate, over a million Swiss francs. At the rate for urgent telegrams the cost would have been double that amount.

Faced with this soaring amount of communications, the ICRC had to reconsider the whole question of equipment and personnel for its radio station.

**Equipment.**—The amateur-type radio equipment which gave satisfaction for five years was not designed for continuous service.