

Zeitschrift: Annual report / International Committee of the Red Cross
Herausgeber: International Committee of the Red Cross
Band: - (1971)

Rubrik: Documentation and Dissemination Division

Nutzungsbedingungen

Die ETH-Bibliothek ist die Anbieterin der digitalisierten Zeitschriften auf E-Periodica. Sie besitzt keine Urheberrechte an den Zeitschriften und ist nicht verantwortlich für deren Inhalte. Die Rechte liegen in der Regel bei den Herausgebern beziehungsweise den externen Rechteinhabern. Das Veröffentlichen von Bildern in Print- und Online-Publikationen sowie auf Social Media-Kanälen oder Webseiten ist nur mit vorheriger Genehmigung der Rechteinhaber erlaubt. [Mehr erfahren](#)

Conditions d'utilisation

L'ETH Library est le fournisseur des revues numérisées. Elle ne détient aucun droit d'auteur sur les revues et n'est pas responsable de leur contenu. En règle générale, les droits sont détenus par les éditeurs ou les détenteurs de droits externes. La reproduction d'images dans des publications imprimées ou en ligne ainsi que sur des canaux de médias sociaux ou des sites web n'est autorisée qu'avec l'accord préalable des détenteurs des droits. [En savoir plus](#)

Terms of use

The ETH Library is the provider of the digitised journals. It does not own any copyrights to the journals and is not responsible for their content. The rights usually lie with the publishers or the external rights holders. Publishing images in print and online publications, as well as on social media channels or websites, is only permitted with the prior consent of the rights holders. [Find out more](#)

Download PDF: 08.02.2026

ETH-Bibliothek Zürich, E-Periodica, <https://www.e-periodica.ch>

Lastly, mention should be made of the sixth session of the *Commission médico-juridique de Monaco*, from 15 to 17 April, which was attended by Mr. Jean Pictet, Vice-President.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Further accessions to the Geneva Conventions

In 1971, three States formally became Parties to the Geneva Conventions of 1949. These were Fiji (declaration of continuity dated 9 August 1971, with effect as from 10 October 1970), Bahrain (accession on 30 November 1971, with effect as from 30 May 1972), and Burundi (declaration of continuity dated 27 December 1971, with effect as from 1 July 1962).

The dates are those on which the official instruments were received by the Swiss Federal Council.

Thus, by the end of the year 130 States were Parties to the Geneva Conventions of 1949. When Bahrain's accession takes effect, on 30 May 1972, there will be 131.

Recognition of National Societies

On 7 September, the ICRC announced the official recognition of the Lesotho Red Cross Society, which brought the number of National Societies to 115.

Documentation and Dissemination Division

DISSEMINATION OF PRINCIPLES AND CONVENTIONS

TEACHING OF INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW IN UNIVERSITIES

On 30 March 1971, the ICRC issued a circular in which it urged all National Societies to examine ways and means of introducing or developing the specific study of international humanitarian law in general and of the Geneva Conventions in particular in their countries' universities. Two questionnaires were attached to the circular : the first was

designed to obtain the opinions and suggestions of National Societies concerning the ICRC initiative ; the second, to find out what the universities were already doing and what else they would be prepared to do.

By the end of the year, thirty-four National Societies had replied to the circular of 30 March 1971. They included five Societies in Africa, five in Latin America, six Arab Societies, eight in Asia, and eight in Europe, plus the Australian and United States Societies. All shared the ICRC view regarding the importance and desirability of teaching international humanitarian law at university level. They therefore contacted universities in their countries and submitted to them the questionnaire which had been prepared for them.

Broadly speaking, the replies from National Societies and universities reflect two conclusions :

- (a) The attention which universities have paid to the study of the Geneva Conventions has on the whole been insufficient, a view shared by the National Societies ;
- (b) In the case of universities which already take an interest in such teaching, the ICRC is asked to supply more documents, for professors and students alike.

At the meeting of the Council of Delegates held in Mexico City on 8 October, Mr. Pierre Gaillard, Assistant Director, reviewed the replies to the questionnaires on the teaching of international humanitarian law in universities. A discussion ensued, and the following resolution was adopted :

" The Council of Delegates

Recognizes that it is absolutely necessary to intensify the exhaustive study and the diffusion of knowledge of the Geneva Conventions and the principles of international humanitarian law in all quarters ;

Affirms that university courses offered in schools of law, political science, social sciences, and medicine should include systematic instruction in these subjects ;

Wishes that universities would also institute postgraduate courses in these subjects so that a supply of highly qualified and specialized personnel will be available ;

Invites National Societies to request the co-operation of competent authorities in their respective countries in achieving these objectives ;

Requests National Societies to inform the ICRC and the League of all legislative and statutory measures that may be taken in this direction."

To implement the resolution, the Documentation and Dissemination Division prepared a plan for a model course which was to be sent to all National Societies early in 1972.

But in addition to such measures of a general nature, some specific action was taken in various countries when circumstances were favourable.

Mr. Jean Pictet, Vice-President, gave a course of four lessons on " Human Rights and the Law of Armed Conflict " at the *Centre universitaire des Hautes Etudes européennes*, at Strasbourg, in April.

In Latin America, the two ICRC regional delegates, Mr. Moreillon and Mr. Leemann, made various moves to interest professors in the teaching of international humanitarian law. Mr. Moreillon himself conducted some courses on that subject in Colombia and Ecuador.

In Beirut, Kuwait and Cairo, Mr. Gaillard contacted the principal professors in charge.

Lastly, at the invitation of the Polish Red Cross, Mr. Gaillard was in Warsaw and Krakow from 13 to 20 December, and there had talks with the holders of chairs of international public law. Everywhere Mr. Gaillard was well received and asked to supply a considerable number of documents.

DISSEMINATION OF THE CONVENTIONS AMONG THE ARMED FORCES

A new pocket-edition of the " Soldier's Manual ", in English, French, Spanish and Arabic, left the press during the first half of 1971 (150,000 copies).

To ensure as wide a distribution as possible, the ICRC sent sample copies to the Ministry of Defence in every country and to all National Societies. It should be pointed out that, as there is no copyright on this publication, any State desiring to have it translated and reproduced is free to do so.

By the end of the year, the ICRC had received replies from fifty governments and thirty National Societies :

Africa : Replies from ten governments and three National Societies. Nine countries placed orders with the ICRC, one country wished to print the ICRC brochure itself (with a Swahili translation), while another was preparing a manual of its own.

Latin America : Replies from eleven governments and five National Societies. Eight countries placed orders with the ICRC, while two requested permission to reproduce the Manual.

Asia : Replies from five governments and eight National Societies. One country placed an order with the ICRC while two requested permission to reproduce the Manual in the language of the country.

Australia : The Government asked the ICRC for additional copies in order that the different army services might study the Manual.

Europe : Replies from seventeen governments and seven Red Cross Societies. Most of the countries had already printed manuals of their own with the essential rules of the Geneva Conventions.

Middle East : Replies from six governments and six National Societies. Eight countries placed orders with the ICRC.

SCHOOL TEXTBOOK AND TEACHER'S MANUAL

Africa : In 1969, the ICRC sent 220,000 copies of the school textbook and the teacher's manual to some twenty-five African countries. As several countries asked for a further supply and others agreed to introduce the school textbook into their schools—particularly after they had been approached by the ICRC regional delegates in West Africa and East Africa—the ICRC allocated funds for a reprint of 550,000 copies for Africa. The new edition will come out in 1972.

Latin America : In 1971, the ICRC regional delegates in Latin America approached several governments and National Societies with a view to introducing the school textbook into that continent. However, as the ICRC lacked funds to finance the printing of a Latin American

edition of the textbook, a number of Red Cross Societies informed it that, with the agreement of their governments, they proposed to produce national editions.

Asia : During 1971, the ten Asian versions of the school textbook and the teacher's manual, amounting to a total of 585,000 and 65,000 copies respectively, left the press¹. All were sent through National Societies to the Ministry of Education of the countries concerned : Burma, Ceylon, Indonesia, Republic of Korea, Laos, Malaysia, Nepal, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand. The printing costs were covered by the balance of the special credit granted by the Swiss Confederation in 1969. At the end of 1971, it allocated a further special credit to enable the ICRC to continue the dissemination of the school textbook and extend it to other countries in Asia.

Middle East : The design for the Arabic version of the school textbook was submitted to the meeting of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in Arab countries held in Beirut from 15 to 20 February. The meeting adopted a recommendation calling upon the National Societies of Arab countries to approach their respective governments with a view to encouraging, facilitating and financing the introduction of the textbooks into school programmes.

Pursuant to that recommendation, the ICRC, which had a modest credit for the purpose, had 95,000 copies of the Arabic version of the school textbook printed in 1971. By the end of the year, 50,000 copies had been sent to the Jordan National Red Crescent Society.

Seven other Arabic-speaking countries asked the ICRC for a supply of the school textbook. Lastly, a special edition of 5,000 copies for Lebanon (the Arabic text, but with the red cross emblem) left the press in December.

DOCUMENTS AND PUBLICATIONS

Exhibitions : Early in 1971, the Documentation and Dissemination Division brought the mobile exhibition " The ICRC Today ", which had been started in 1969, up to date. Some of the panels were renewed and others were added, especially panels dealing with the development of

¹ See Annual Report 1970, p. 106.

international humanitarian law, the dissemination of the Geneva Conventions, and the school textbook.

The exhibition was opened on the occasion of the Conference of Government Experts on the Reaffirmation and Development of International Humanitarian Law Applicable in Armed Conflicts, held in the EFTA building, in Geneva, from 24 May to 12 June. It was also presented in the context of the following events : the Conference of the International Institute of Humanitarian Law, at San Remo from 2 to 4 September ; exhibitions of the *Comité départemental de la Croix-Rouge française*, at Aix-en-Provence and later at Apt, in September ; and a Red Cross Youth exhibition held in Berne early in December.

The sixteen panels of the ICRC exhibition were reproduced in the form of posters in order to facilitate despatch. This new version, 100 copies of which left the press in the last quarter of 1971, was sent to most National Societies and to ICRC regional delegations. The French Red Cross used it at a general Red Cross exhibition held at Royan on 12 and 13 December.

During the Red Cross gatherings held in Mexico City in October, the Documentation and Dissemination Division organized two poster exhibitions, one dealing specifically with ICRC work in Latin America and the other with the ICRC in general.

Documentation : The Documentation and Dissemination Division answered a great many requests for information from National Red Cross Societies, various institutions and private individuals, regarding recent activities and earlier events.

Publications : The number of ICRC publications increased in 1971 by the following eleven : Report on the Activity of the International Committee of the Red Cross for the Indemnification of Former Allied Prisoners of War in Japanese Hands, in English and French ; Summary of Conventions, in Arabic (first edition) and Spanish (reprint) ; Soldier's Manual, in English, French, Spanish and Arabic ; Report on the Conference of Government Experts on the Reaffirmation and Development of International Humanitarian Law Applicable in Armed Conflicts (24 May-12 June 1971), in English, French and Spanish ; Final Report on Jordan Relief Operation, in English, French and Spanish ; Annual Report 1970, in French, English, Spanish and German ; The ICRC Today, in English, French and Spanish ; International Red Cross

Handbook, in French and English ; and three offprints from the International Review of the Red Cross : "A Contemporary Look at the International Committee of the Red Cross ", by Mr. Max Petitpierre, a member of the ICRC ; " Protection of Journalists on Dangerous Missions in Areas of Armed Conflict ", by Mr. Claude Pilloud, Director of the Department of Principles and Law, and " Respect of Human Rights in Time of Armed Conflict ", containing resolutions of the General Assembly of the United Nations.

RELATIONS WITH RED CROSS INSTITUTIONS

NATIONAL SOCIETIES

Missions of the President of the ICRC : On the occasion of the Conference of Red Cross Experts on the Reaffirmation and Development of International Humanitarian Law Applicable in Armed Conflicts, which was held at The Hague from 1 to 6 March, Mr. Marcel A. Naville, President of the ICRC, accompanied by Mr. Roger Gallopin, a member of the ICRC, and Mr. A. van Emden, Director-General of the Netherlands Red Cross, called on Mr. P.J.S. de Jong, Prime Minister of the Netherlands Government.

At the invitation of the American National Red Cross, the President of the ICRC stayed in the United States of America from 17 to 24 April. He was accompanied by Mr. Jean-Louis Le Fort, Secretary-General ; Mr. Claude Pilloud, Director of the Department of Principles and Law ; Mr. Melchior Borsinger, Delegate-General for Europe and North America ; and Mr. A. Dominique Micheli, Delegate to International Organizations. In Washington, he was received at the White House by President Nixon and his special assistant, Mr. Henry Kissinger. Mr. Naville also met Mr. William P. Rogers, Secretary of State, and Mr. Melvin R. Laird, Secretary of Defence. The President of the ICRC then proceeded to New York, where he conferred with H.E. Ambassador Ervard Hambro, President of the General Assembly of the United Nations. Mr. Naville was also received by U Thant, Secretary-General of the United Nations, and his principal associates. Finally, the President of the ICRC visited American Red Cross headquarters, where he was received by Mr. Roland E. Harriman, Chairman of the National Society ; Mrs. Francis E. Hildebrand, National President of Volun-

teers ; and Mr. Kenney and Mr. Evens, Chairmen of the Columbia and Grand New York chapters. Mr. Naville had talks with Mr. George M. Elsey, President of the American National Red Cross, Mr. Ramone S. Eaton, Senior Vice-President, and Vice-Presidents Robert Lewis, Fred Laise and Robert Shea.

On the occasion of the fourth international festival of Red Cross and non-Red Cross films on medical and health subjects, held in Varna from 21 to 30 June, the President of the ICRC went to Bulgaria at the invitation of the Red Cross Society of that country. Mr. Naville, who was accompanied by Mr. Alain Modoux, Head of the Press and Information Division, was welcomed by Dr. Kiril Ignatov, President of the Bulgarian Red Cross, and Mr. Gueorgui Gospodinov, First Vice-President. During his stay in Bulgaria, the President of the ICRC visited the seat of the Bulgarian Red Cross in Sofia and a number of regional committees, including the Varna committee. Mr. Naville was also received by Mr. Gueorgui Traikov, President of the People's Republic of Bulgaria, and Mr. Ivan Bachev, Minister of Foreign Affairs.

From 17 July to 8 August, the President of the ICRC, accompanied by Mr. Georg Hoffmann, ICRC Delegate-General for Africa, visited Ethiopia, Kenya, Senegal and Cameroon.

In Ethiopia, where he remained until 24 July, Mr. Naville was granted audience by His Imperial Majesty Haile Selassie I. He also met the Minister of the Imperial Court and the Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Defence, Health, and Justice. The President of the ICRC contacted Ethiopian Red Cross leaders at the Society's premises in Addis Ababa. He also went to the seat of the Organization of African Unity.

In Kenya, contacts were made with the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Defence, and Health, and with the Attorney General. Mr. Naville was received by Mr. Charles W. Rubia, President of the Kenya Red Cross Society, and visited the National Society's local committees in Nairobi and its surroundings.

On 31 July, the President of the ICRC left Kenya for Senegal, where he met Mr. Rito Alcantara, Vice-President of the League of Red Cross Societies and President of the Senegalese Red Cross Society, by whom he was accompanied throughout his stay. Mr. Naville had talks also with the Prime Minister and the Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Health.

Lastly, in Cameroon, the President of the ICRC was received by Mr. Ahmadou Ahidjo, President of the Republic. He also met the Prime Minister of East Cameroon, the Prime Minister of West Cameroon, and the Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Defence, Health and Education. Dr. S. P. Tchoungui, President of the Cameroon Red Cross Society, received Mr. Naville at National Society Headquarters.

Having expressed the wish to establish closer relations with the Red Cross Society of China, the President of the ICRC was invited by that Society to visit the People's Republic of China in September. Accompanied by Mr. Michel Barde, ICRC Presidential Attaché, Mr. Naville left Geneva for Peking on 13 September. He was welcomed on arrival by leaders of the Red Cross Society of China—Mr. Huo King-go, Mr. Wang Min, Mr. Li Go-hua, Mr. Shang Sheng-gan, Mrs. Lian Si-yi and Mrs. Lian Mo. During his stay in Peking, the President of the ICRC was received by Mr. Li Hsien-nien, Deputy Premier of the State Council, in the presence of other representatives of the Government of the People's Republic of China. After visiting a number of places, including Tsing-Hua University, various schools, and the Deaf and Dumb Care Centre, the ICRC delegation proceeded to Nanking and Shanghai, where it visited the hospital for the re-grafting of severed limbs. The President of the ICRC was back in Geneva on 27 September.

In addition to the presidential trips, at the invitation of the Spanish Red Cross an ICRC delegation visited Madrid from 15 to 18 March. The delegation was led by Mr. Max Petitpierre, a member of the ICRC, accompanied by Mr. Raymond Courvoisier, Special Assistant to the President and Director of the Operations Department, and Mr. Jean-Pierre Hocké, a delegate. The delegation was received by H.R.H. the Prince of Spain and by the Vice-President of the Spanish Government. It also conferred with the Ministers of Justice, the Interior, the Army, and Education, and with the Under-Secretary of State in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Lastly, the delegation held a fruitful exchange of views with Spanish Red Cross leaders, including Count de Toreno, President of the National Society.

The President of the ICRC and his close associates had the honour of receiving the following notabilities at ICRC headquarters in Geneva : H.E. Mr. Léopold Sédar Senghor, President of the Republic of Senegal, on 9 June ; Their Majesties the Emperor and Empress of Japan, on 20 October ; H.E. Mr. Hubert Maga, Chairman of the Presi-

dential Council of the Republic of Dahomey, and H.E. Mr. Agboton, Minister of Labour, on 1 December.

Regional seminars : Mr. Pierre Gaillard and Mr. Jean-Pierre Mau-
noir, Assistant Directors, and Mr. Alain Modoux, Head of the Press
and Information Division, represented the ICRC at the meeting of Red
Cross and Red Crescent Societies in Arab Countries held in Beirut
from 15 to 20 February.

A second seminar of the Regional Training Institute for English-
speaking National Societies in West Africa was held in Accra from 8
to 29 April. The ICRC was fully associated in the seminar, which was
organized by the League, and Mr. Stéphane Svikovsky, a member of
the Documentation and Dissemination Division, was in Accra to attend
the seminar.

Two further training seminars for National Societies were held in
September. One of these, in Dakar (1-22 September), was for French-
speaking Red Cross officials in West Africa, and the other in Mexico
City (9-30 September) for National Societies in Central America.
Mr. François Payot, a delegate, represented the ICRC at the former,
while Mr. Eddi Leemann, Regional Delegate for Central America and
the Caribbean, attended the latter.

Mr. Jean-Pierre Hocké, a delegate, took part in a seminar orga-
nized by the League for National Societies in the Far East—Interna-
tional Training Course in Disaster Services Administration—in Mel-
bourne from 23 to 27 August.

Training courses : Mr. Stéphane Svikovsky also attended a Yugo-
slav Red Cross study and training course from 18 January to 2 Fe-
bruary. He delivered an address and showed films relating to the
ICRC, in Belgrade and to the national committees in Zagreb, Rijeka,
Ljubljana and Krapa.

From 1 November to 15 December, Mr. S. Penkov, a legal expert
of the Bulgarian Red Cross, came to the ICRC to gather documentary
material for a survey of the influence of the ICRC's work on
international humanitarian law in general.

National Societies in process of formation : In November Mr. Gail-
lard went to Bahrain, at the invitation of the nascent National Society,
to consider arrangements for its recognition, both from a standpoint of
formal conditions and practical activities.

THE EMPRESS SHOKEN FUND

On 23 March, the Joint Commission of the Empress Shoken Fund held a meeting in Geneva, for the fiftieth distribution of revenue from the Empress Shoken Fund. The meeting was presided over by Mr. Roger Gallopin, a member of the ICRC, and attended by H.E. Mr. Hideo Kitahara, Ambassador of Japan, and Mr. Henrik Beer, Secretary-General of the League.

The revenue distributed in 1971 amounted to 82,700 Swiss francs. It was shared out among the National Red Cross Societies of Guatemala, Haiti, India, Indonesia and Mali.

LEAGUE OF RED CROSS SOCIETIES

World Red Cross Day : World Red Cross Day, which takes place each year on 8 May, was organized in 1971 by the League : the theme was "Red Cross Working round the clock". The ICRC contributed in two ways : by a message from its President, Mr. Marcel A. Naville, and by an article for National Societies on the current activities of the ICRC in two fields, namely operations, and the development of international humanitarian law.

Relations with International Institutions

During 1971, Mr. André-Dominique Micheli, ICRC Delegate to International Organizations, in close co-operation with the Department of Principles and Law and the Operations Department, continued his contacts with the United Nations and its Specialized Agencies as well as with the Council of Europe.

With the members of the Legal Division, Mr. Micheli followed the question of the development of international humanitarian law, dealt with by the United Nations as "Respect for Human Rights in Armed Conflicts". Other points, such as that concerning the UN Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Population of the Occupied Territories, or racial and decolonization problems (southern Africa) also received his attention and frequently required personal contact with United Nations officials in charge of those matters.