

Zeitschrift: Annual report / International Committee of the Red Cross
Herausgeber: International Committee of the Red Cross
Band: - (1972)

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: 15.03.2026

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

Lastly, Mr. Jean Pictet, Vice-President; Mrs. Denise Bindschedler, member of the ICRC, and Mr. Michel Veuthey, legal adviser, represented the ICRC at the Seminar on the Teaching of Humanitarian Law in Military Institutions, held by the San Remo International Institute of Humanitarian Law from 6 to 18 November.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Further accessions to the Geneva Conventions

In 1972, two States formally became parties to the Geneva Conventions of 1949. They were Bangladesh (declaration of continuity dated 4 April 1972) and the United Arab Emirates (accession on 10 May 1972).

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

Thus, by the end of the year 133 States were parties to the Geneva Conventions of 1949.

Recognition of National Societies

On 14 September, the ICRC announced the official recognition of the Bahrain Red Crescent Society, which brought the number of National Societies to 116.

DOCUMENTATION AND DISSEMINATION DIVISION

DISSEMINATION OF PRINCIPLES AND CONVENTIONS

Plan of Action to be Applied by National Societies in Spreading Knowledge of and in Developing International Humanitarian Law Applicable in Armed Conflicts

In the context of the Conference of Red Cross Experts on the Reaffirmation and Development of International Humanitarian Law Applicable in Armed Conflicts, held in Vienna from 20 to 24 March 1972, one of the topics considered was the role of National Societies in the propagation and development of international humanitarian law and the assistance which they could give the ICRC at that meeting. In view of the recommendation of the National Societies during the meeting at The Hague in February 1971, the ICRC drew up a plan

of action which it sent on 27 February 1972 to the National Societies taking part in the Vienna Conference.

The plan, which was submitted to the Conference by Mr. Pierre Gaillard, Assistant Director in charge of the Documentation and Dissemination Division, was published in the March 1972 issue of *International Review of the Red Cross*. It comprises two distinct parts, each of which supplements the action of National Societies, namely:

(I) the role of National Societies in spreading knowledge of the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and

(II) the role of National Societies in developing international humanitarian law.

Concerning the former, the plan envisages direct National Society action to reach public opinion and youth, and indirect action through universities, the armed forces and the medical profession.

In respect of the second of these roles, the plan views the action of National Societies in two phases, namely before and after consultations with government experts.

The plan was also sent to National Societies which did not attend the Vienna Conference. It was accompanied by a report on the discussion of the subject.

In *International Review of the Red Cross*, a new section entitled "Dissemination of the Geneva Conventions" was introduced. It includes information provided by National Societies on their projects and achievements under that heading.

Memorandum on the Implementation and Dissemination of the Geneva Conventions

On 15 August 1972, the ICRC sent the governments of States parties to the Geneva Conventions a memorandum requesting them to inform it before February 1973 what measures had been taken since 1969 for the propagation of the Geneva Conventions among their armed forces and populations. The replies will serve to draw up a report which will be presented to the XXIInd International Conference of the Red Cross.

National Societies were informed of this approach to governments and invited also to report their own activities in this field to the ICRC.

Teaching of International Humanitarian Law

Following up the action taken in 1971 with a view to promoting the teaching of international humanitarian law in universities, and on the basis of the resolution adopted by the Council of Delegates in Mexico City on 8 October 1971, the ICRC sent all National Societies on 20 January 1972 the outline of a model course. This is a compendium of the main topics to be dealt with in a course on international humanitarian law.

In addition, the ICRC has issued a detailed commentary elaborating on the outline course, a kind of memento and guide for professors of international public law who wish to draw inspiration from it.

The ICRC regional delegations in Africa and Latin America have supported the action taken in this field by the Documentation and Dissemination Division, which published English and Spanish versions of the model course outline in the second half of 1972.

The same Division also issued, particularly for university libraries and professors, a general bibliography of ICRC publications devoted to international humanitarian law and the principles of the Red Cross.

Dissemination of the Geneva Conventions among Armed Forces

In 1972, the ICRC had 150,000 further copies published of the new edition of the *Soldier's Manual*, which had been issued the previous year in English, French, Spanish and Arabic. Six thousand copies of a Portuguese version also came off the press.

More than half the governments and National Societies to which specimen copies of the new edition in pocket-book format were sent in July 1971 replied to the ICRC, which reacted as follows:

Africa: The ICRC sent thirteen countries, at their request, several tens of thousands of copies of the *Soldier's Manual* for distribution among the armed forces. The countries concerned were: Cameroon, People's Republic of the Congo, Gambia, Ghana, Ivory Coast, Liberia, Madagascar, Mali, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Uganda and Zaire.

One country, Kenya, had the *Manual* printed in Swahili.

Latin America: At their request, the ICRC sent Guyana and Honduras copies of the *Manual*.

The Costa Rican Red Cross issued 3,000 mimeographed copies of the *Manual* and, with the agreement of the Ministry of Public Security, distributed them to members of the Civil Guard and to army barracks.

The Ecuadorian Red Cross informed us that the *Soldier's Manual* had been reproduced in the official newspaper of the country's armed forces.

The Brazilian Red Cross having expressed the desire to have the *Manual* printed, we sent it the photolithographs of the Portuguese version. The Brazilian army having declared itself in favour of using the *Manual*, it is planned to publish 100,000 copies.

Asia: The ICRC has sent copies of the *Manual* to two countries which have asked for them: Nepal and Indonesia.

In India, the army has had 60,000 copies of a Hindi version printed, with financial assistance from the ICRC.

In the Khmer Republic, too, the military authorities have had the *Manual* translated and have had 25,000 copies of the Khmer version printed with financial assistance from the ICRC.

Middle East: Three Middle East countries, Kuwait, Lebanon and the Yemen Arab Republic requested and received copies of the *Manual* from the ICRC.

The Arab Republic of Egypt, for its part, is having the *Manual* printed.

SCHOOL TEXTBOOK AND TEACHER'S MANUAL

Africa: As far back as 1969, the ICRC sent 220,000 copies of the school textbook *The Red Cross and My Country* and the *Teacher's Manual* to twenty-five African countries. Several of them having requested more, and others having agreed to introduce the textbook into their schools—particularly after the approaches made by the ICRC regional delegates in East and West Africa—the ICRC appropriated funds for the printing of 550,000 copies of a new edition for Africa.

This new edition of 400,000 copies of the school textbook for Africa, in English and French, and 150,000 copies in Arabic for the

Arab States of Africa, was published at the beginning of 1972. In the first six months, 510,000 copies were sent to the Societies of twenty-three countries: Botswana, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, People's Republic of the Congo, Dahomey, Gabon, the Gambia, Ghana, Ivory Coast, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Swaziland, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda, Upper Volta and Zaire—and to the Red Crescent Societies of Algeria, Mauritania, Morocco, Sudan and Tunisia.

Later in the year, copies were sent also to the Malawi Red Cross and the Somali Red Crescent, when those two countries agreed to introduce the textbook into their schools.

Subsequently, the Ministries of Education of several countries expressed their satisfaction with these books and assured the ICRC that they would be put to good use.

Middle East: In 1971 the ICRC had 95,000 copies of the Arabic version of the textbook printed. Fifty thousand were sent to the Jordan Red Crescent.

At the beginning of 1972, 30,000 copies were sent to the Egyptian Red Crescent, which distributed them among 1,480 schools. Iraq, the Yemen Arab Republic and Abu Dhabi also made known their intention of introducing the textbook in their schools, and copies were sent to those three countries in 1972.

At its own expense, Kuwait had 20,000 copies of the textbook printed and offered the ICRC 10,000 copies to meet demand in other countries of the Arabian Peninsula.

Asia: The Swiss Confederation having granted it a further special credit to continue and extend the dissemination of the school textbook in Asia¹, the ICRC contacted the Indian and Pakistan Red Cross Societies to prepare dummies for the printing in Hindi and Urdu. At the end of 1972, the Hindi version was about to come off the press in New Delhi, and the dummy in Urdu had been completed by the Pakistan Red Cross.

Editions in other Asian languages had also been prepared.

On its own initiative, the Afghan Red Crescent sent the ICRC a copy of the Afghan version which it had had printed.

¹ See *Annual Report 1971*, p. 86.

Latin America: The ICRC having no funds for the printing of a Latin America edition of the school textbook, its regional delegates in that part of the world continued their negotiations with several governments and National Societies with a view to the publication of national editions.

In response to a request from the ICRC, the Canadian Red Cross generously donated 2,000 dollars collected by the Junior Red Cross, as a contribution to the publishing of a Central America edition to be printed in El Salvador in 1973.

DOCUMENTS AND PUBLICATIONS

Exhibitions: In 1971 the Documentation and Dissemination Division produced as posters the sixteen panels of the mobile exhibition "The ICRC Today". In 1972, 200 extra copies were printed to enable the ICRC to send a set to each National Society which had not previously received one, and to meet the orders received by the ICRC.

These posters were on display during the Vienna Conference of Red Cross Experts on the Reaffirmation and Development of International Humanitarian Law from 20 to 24 March, and at the Conference of Government Experts in Geneva from 3 May to 3 June.

They were also shown at the Lebanon Red Cross exhibition, in Beirut from 8 to 15 May; the Regional Training Institute, in June at Nairobi, organized by the League of Red Cross Societies; the Red Cross day in the Swiss Watch Industry Trade Fair, at Montreal in August; the International Institute of Humanitarian Law seminar, at San Remo in November; and the League of Red Cross Societies' Regional Training Institute, at Ibadan from 1 to 20 December.

In addition, the Documentation and Dissemination Division provided the material necessary for an exhibition on the Geneva Conventions in the International Red Cross Museum at Castiglione delle Stiviere (Italy) from 25 June to 30 October.

Documentation: The Documentation and Dissemination Division answered many enquiries from National Societies, various institutions and individuals, on activities bygone and recent.

Audio-visual material: Adapting to up-to-date techniques and replying to a demand from National Societies, the Documentation

and Dissemination Division, in 1972, produced the following audio-visual material:

- Six thousand posters reproducing the cover of the Africa and Arabic versions of the school textbook. The posters being intended for display in schools using the textbook, they were sent to the National Societies of all countries which had introduced the book in their teaching programmes. Several National Societies asked for additional stocks.
- Seven thousand posters, in six languages, illustrating the three main themes of the Geneva Conventions, i.e. the protection of the wounded, the protection of prisoners of war, and the protection of civilians. These posters were sent to Defence Ministries and National Societies with a recommendation to purchase them for display in barracks and police stations. Several countries—Australia, Jordan, the Netherlands, the Philippines, South Africa and the Republic of Vietnam—ordered them.

The Documentation and Dissemination Division began work on a film dealing with the Geneva Conventions and by the end of the year was preparing two new series of colour slides on the *Soldier's Manual* and the Geneva Conventions.

Publications: The year 1972 was the year of publication of:

- The Geneva Conventions, a summary for the armed forces and the public, in Italian;
- Annual Report 1971, in English, French, Spanish and German;
- Report on the work of the second session of the Conference of Government Experts on the Reaffirmation and Development of International Humanitarian Law Applicable in Armed Conflicts, in English, French and Spanish;
- *Manuel du Délégué*, in French;
- Signalling and Identification of Medical Personnel and Material, by F. de Mulinen, in English, French and German (offprint from *International Review of the Red Cross*).

RELATIONS WITH RED CROSS INSTITUTIONS

National Societies

Missions of the President of the ICRC: At the second session of the Conference of Red Cross Experts on the Reaffirmation and Development of International Humanitarian Law, which was held in Vienna from 20 to 24 March 1972, President Naville, accompanied by Mr. Melchior Borsinger, delegate-general for Europe, had useful contacts with the Austrian authorities and Red Cross, particularly with Dr. Bruno Kreisky, Chancellor of the Republic, Dr. Rudolf Kirchschräger, Minister of Foreign Affairs, and Dr. Hans von Lauda, President of the Austrian Red Cross.

From 24 to 27 April, accompanied by Mr. Claude Pilloud, Director of the Department of Principles and Law, the ICRC President was the guest of the Red Lion and Sun Society of Iran. After being welcomed by the leaders of the National Society, he was received in audience by H.I.M. Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, Shah of Iran.

Mr. Naville and Mr. Pilloud had discussions with the Prime Minister, H.E. Amir Abbas Hoveyda, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, H.E. Abbas Ali Khalatbari, and the Minister of Health, Dr. Manouchehr Shahqoli, in the course of which the ICRC President reviewed the various aspects of ICRC activities.

The President of the ICRC and Mr. Pilloud paid a visit to H.I.H. the Princess Chams Pahlavi, President of the Red Lion and Sun Society. With Dr. Hossein Khatibi, the Society's Director-General, Mr. Naville and Mr. Pilloud discussed at length various problems of common interest. They also met Mr. Jafar Sharif Emami, President of the Senate, and Mr. Abdollah Riazzi, President of the House of Deputies; both are Vice-Presidents of the Red Lion and Sun Society.

Accompanied by Dr. Khatibi, Mr. Naville and Mr. Pilloud visited the Society's headquarters and telecommunications centre in Teheran, and the Parliament Palace where, in the autumn of 1973, the XXIIInd International Conference of the Red Cross will take place. At Ispahan, the ICRC President and Mr. Pilloud visited the headquarters of the local committee of the Red Lion and Sun Youth section, and the Society's blood transfusion centre.

At the invitation of the Hungarian Red Cross, the ICRC President, accompanied by Mr. Melchior Borsinger, delegate-general for

Europe and North America, stayed in Hungary from 26 June to 2 July. In Budapest he was received by the Chairman of the Presidential Council, Mr. Pál Losonczi, and in the absence of the Prime Minister had talks with Dr. Miklós Ajtai, Deputy Prime Minister, Dr. Karoly Csatornia, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs, and Dr. Bela Toth, Deputy Minister of Health. He also addressed representatives of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Justice, the Interior, and Health. On the same occasion, he presented the Henry Dunant Medal to Miss Katalin Durgo, whose outstanding humanitarian career and merit he described. Miss Durgo is a nurse with more than fifty years of service with the Hungarian Red Cross to her credit.

The leaders of the National Society, including Professor P. Gégesi-Kiss, President, and Ambassador I. Rostás, Secretary-General, welcomed the ICRC President and conducted him on a tour of the Society's installations in the capital, the district committees of Eger, Esztergom and Balatonfüred, and the children's town of Föt, with more than a thousand orphans. In Budapest, the ICRC President spoke on ICRC activities to the quarterly plenary meeting of the Council of the National Society and was presented with the Hungarian Red Cross gold medal.

Invited by the National Society and the authorities of the German Democratic Republic, Mr. Naville and Mr. Borsinger stayed in that country from 14 to 21 October 1972. At Dresden the ICRC President was welcomed by Professor Werner Ludwig, President of the National Society, Dr. Wolfgang Weitbrecht, Vice-President, Mr. Johannes Hengst, Secretary-General, and Mr. Oehring, head of the Secretariat to the Presidency and of International Relations.

The ICRC President and the delegate-general visited Karl-Marx-Stadt, where they met the departmental committee of the Red Cross and saw the activities it carried out. They also had discussions with the district authorities.

On 18 October, Mr. Naville went to Berlin, where he was welcomed by members of the directorate of the Red Cross. He was also received by Mr. Willi Stoph, Prime Minister, Dr. Otto Winzer, Minister for Foreign Affairs, and Dr. Ludwig Meschlinger, Minister of Health.

Mr. Naville described to the Red Cross and government representatives the ICRC's activities, work and objectives, particularly in the

development of international humanitarian law and the main operations attendant upon armed conflicts and internal tensions, for the benefit of the victims.

Apart from the missions carried out by the President, the head of the Press and Information Division, Mr. Alain Modoux, was in Abu Dhabi from 18 to 21 March in order to inform the highest authorities of the United Arab Emirates about ICRC activities and to raise the question of the United Arab Emirates' accession to the Geneva Conventions. He was received by the President H.H. Shaikh Zayed Ibn Sultan, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Shaikh Ahmad Khalifa al-Soweidy, and the Palace Counsellor Dr. Adnan Pachachi.

The ICRC President and his directorate staff had the honour of welcoming to ICRC headquarters in Geneva Mr. Kurt Waldheim and the Director-General of the European Office of the United Nations, Mr. Winspeare Guicciardi, on 4 July, and the President of the Federal Republic of Germany, Mr. Gustav Heinemann, on 29 September.

Regional seminars: The Fifth Meeting of Presidents and Technical Personnel of the National Societies of North America, Mexico, Central America and Panama was held from 8 to 11 February. The ICRC was represented by its delegate-general for Latin America, and its regional delegate for Central America and the Caribbean.

Mr. Jean-Pierre Maunoir, assistant director and acting delegate-general for the Middle East, Mr. Alain Modoux, head of the Press and Information Division, and Mr. Antoine Martin, assistant to the head of the Legal Division, represented the ICRC at the annual meeting of Arab countries' National Societies, at Baghdad from 5 to 10 March.

Mrs. Denise Bindschedler, an ICRC member, took part in the VIIth Annual Meeting of the Yugoslav Red Cross, in Belgrade on 28 and 29 March.

In May, Mr. Bernard Daniel attended the " Disaster Preparedness and Relief Assistance Institute ", a seminar organized in Manila by the Philippine Red Cross, in co-operation with the League of Red Cross Societies, for the National Societies of Asia and the Pacific. He delivered a paper on assistance to the victims of international and non-international armed conflicts.

Mr. Raymond Courvoisier, special assistant to the President, and

Mrs. Marion Cherbuliez, a member of the Documentation and Dissemination Division, represented the ICRC at the annual meeting of the Swiss Red Cross, which took place at Solothurn on 18 June.

Mr. Alain Modoux, head of the Press and Information Division, and Miss Michèle Mercier, a member of the same division, represented the ICRC at the European Conference of Red Cross Youth at Varna, Bulgaria, from 11 to 17 July 1972.

In Copenhagen, on 17 and 18 October, a colloquium was held on the initiative of the Swedish Red Cross. Its subject was the role of National Societies in promoting public interest in the Red Cross ideal and their co-operation with the ICRC to that end. The leaders of the Nordic and Federal German National Societies took part in the meeting, at which the ICRC was represented by Mr. Jacques Freymond, a member of the ICRC, Mr. Jean-Louis Le Fort, Secretary-General, and Mr. Alain Modoux, head of the Press and Information Division.

From 6 to 27 November, Mr. Eddi Leemann, regional delegate for Central America and the Caribbean, represented the ICRC at the "William H.S. Dabney" Training Institute, organized by the League of Red Cross Societies and the Colombian Red Cross at Fusagasugá. Mr. Serge Nessi, delegate-general for Latin America, also attended for two days.

Convened on the initiative of the Yugoslav Red Cross and organized jointly by that National Society and the League, a conference of Balkan Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies was held at Opatija, Yugoslavia, from 13 to 18 November. The ICRC was represented by Mr. Harald Huber, Vice-President, and Mr. Pierre Gaillard, assistant director.

Mr. François Payot, a delegate, represented the ICRC at a meeting of the Regional Training Institute, organized by the League and the Tunisian Red Crescent and held in Tunis from 15 November to 5 December, for Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies of North Africa and the Middle East.

Mr. Daniel attended a Red Cross Youth information course held jointly by the Malaysian and Singapore Red Cross Societies at Kota Kuala Bharu (State of Selangor, Malaysia) from 26 November to 2 December, and spoke about the organization and activities of the ICRC.

From 1 to 20 December, a special session of the Regional Training Institute for West African National Societies was held in Ibadan (Nigeria). One of the aims pursued was the training of cadres for youth sections. Six West African Societies took part in the meeting, and the ICRC was represented by Miss Françoise Perret, a member of the Documentation and Dissemination Division.

On 26 September, an information meeting was held at ICRC headquarters for the National Societies represented on the League's Executive Committee. It was attended by about a hundred representatives of National Societies. On that occasion, ICRC representatives spoke about the development of international humanitarian law and the ICRC's activities.

Training courses: Members of the Jordan Red Crescent, Republic of Korea Red Cross and Japanese Red Cross attended one-week training courses at the ICRC.

Empress Shoken Fund

On 15 March, the Joint Commission of the Empress Shoken Fund met in Geneva for the fifty-first 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 the Ambassador of Japan and the Secretary General of the League. For the first time, the revenue exceeded 100,000 Swiss francs, thanks to the contributions made by the imperial family and the Japanese Red Cross in preceding years.

The following National Societies received sums which enabled them to purchase equipment:

Botswana	1 ambulance
Ceylon	1 ambulance
Republic of Korea	1 refrigerator for blood
Pakistan	1 vehicle equipped for blood transfusion
Panama	1 ambulance
Togo	5 motorcycles (for first-aiders)
Upper Volta	first-aid post equipment

Standing Commission

The Standing Commission of the International Red Cross held two ordinary sessions in Geneva, on 11 April and 26 September 1972.

Present at the meeting, which was chaired by Angela, Countess of Limerick (United Kingdom), were the two representatives of the International Committee, Mr. Marcel A. Naville, President, and Mr. Jean Pictet, Vice-President; the two representatives of the League, Mr. José Barroso, President of the Board of Governors, and Mr. Eustasio Villanueva Vadillo (Spain), and the members elected by the International Conference of the Red Cross, namely General James F. Collins (USA), Dr. Hadj Ahmed Djebli-Elaydouni (Morocco), Sir Geoffrey Newman-Morris (Australia) and Dr. N. Troyan, President of the Alliance of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, who was deputizing for Professor Miterev (USSR). The Red Lion and Sun Society of Iran—which will receive the forthcoming International Conference of the Red Cross—was represented by H.E. J. Sharif Emani, Vice-President; H.E. Dr. H. Khatibi, Director-General, and Mrs. P. Shahidi, Liaison Officer to international Red Cross organizations. Mr. T. W. Sloper, the Commission's Adviser, also attended the meeting.

The Standing Commission was mainly concerned with the organization of the XXIInd International Conference of the Red Cross, to be held in Teheran from 7 to 15 November 1973, following the session of the League's Board of Governors.

RELATIONS WITH INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

During 1972, Mr. A. 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 and non-governmental organizations.

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 ".