

Zeitschrift: Annual report / International Committee of the Red Cross
Herausgeber: International Committee of the Red Cross
Band: - (1975)

Rubrik: Personnel

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Exhibitions

The second World Telecommunications Exhibition, *Telecom 75*, which was held in Geneva from 2 to 6 October, gave the ICRC a chance to show the public how it maintains radio contact between headquarters in Geneva and the delegates in the field. During the hours that the exhibition was open, all ICRC radio traffic came through the ICRC stand at the *Telecom 75*. This attraction was supplemented by a triple-screen film showing the importance of radio communications to ICRC operations and giving a summarized history of the ICRC Telecommunications Service (see p. 29).

The ICRC also played a more modest role in the Zurich, Boston, Montreal and Paris exhibitions (the last-mentioned being an exhibition on the Red Cross organised by the French Red Cross at French Broadcasting House).

VII. PERSONNEL

Despite the escalation of fighting in 1975, there was a slight reduction in ICRC personnel—not counting persons whose services were loaned by National Societies—as shown by the following figures:

		1975	(1974)
– headquarters	employees	238	(227)
– in the field	delegates	85	(126)
– total		323	(353)
– local staff		130	(220)

The reduction of staff in the field is accounted for mainly by the cutback from 45 to 3 in Cyprus as well as in Southeast Asia (activity in Cambodia ceased at the end of April) and in Latin America (with the reduction in relief work in Chile).

The fighting in Angola caused the figure for Africa to rise during 1975 from 5 to 25 delegates, not including scores of doctors, surgeons and nurses made available by the National Societies of Denmark, France, Great Britain, Sweden and Switzerland, for work in Angola.

Delegations: many applications

During 1975, there were more than 500 applications to become ICRC delegate, as compared with 360 in 1974. The economic recession probably contributed to this reawakening of interest in humanitarian work.

Of the 521 applications received, 129 came from non-Swiss who could not be considered as possible delegates. These applicants were advised to apply to their own National Societies.

Of the 392 Swiss applicants considered, 86 were accepted and 306 (78%) rejected.

Training course: 98 participants

The introductory course to initiate applicants into the function of a delegate, after which the final selection is made, was held in four sessions at the Conference Centre at Cartigny (Geneva). It was attended by 98 persons (of whom 17 were women) composed of applicants who had survived the preselection and some ICRC employees. Thirteen persons came from the ICRC Group for International Missions (GMI). The GMI, set up in Berne in 1962, is responsible for recruiting specialized staff to fill technical posts, doctors, radio operators, drivers, etc., who agree to accept missions of at least two months over a period of two years.

Personnel on mission

During the year, 179 posts in the field were filled or renewed, as follows:

- 11 heads of delegation
- 5 regional delegates
- 44 delegates
- 39 doctors, including 19 supplied by National Societies
- 11 agency delegates
- 7 administrators
- 29 male and female nurses, 21 from National Societies
- 5 secretaries
- 14 radio operators
- 14 technicians, including 7 from National Societies.

VIII. FINANCE

Fund-Raising

During 1975, the fund-raising delegate approached many governments to try to obtain either a considerable increase in existing contributions or regular contributions from governments which had not hitherto paid any.

These approaches formed part of an overall plan decided on by the Committee in 1972, the object of which is to obtain from the governments which have acceded to the Geneva Conventions regular annual contributions totalling 7.5 million Swiss francs so that the permanent structure of the ICRC may be financed half by the Swiss Confederation and half by other governments.

Although contributions are voluntary, they do nonetheless derive from Resolution XI of the 1949 Diplomatic Conference, which we quote below:

Whereas the Geneva Conventions require the International Committee of the Red Cross *to be ready at all times and in all circumstances to fulfil the humanitarian tasks entrusted to it by these Conventions,*