

Zeitschrift: Annual report / International Committee of the Red Cross
Herausgeber: International Committee of the Red Cross
Band: - (1976)

Rubrik: Relations with Red Cross Institutions and National Societies

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: 14.03.2026

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

Republic, Italy, Poland, Portugal, Sudan, Sweden, Tanzania and Uganda. The League also participated.

The first week of the seminar was devoted to the theoretical study of major questions relating to international humanitarian law. During the second week, the participants considered various methods for disseminating knowledge of this law, and the responsibilities of National Societies in this respect. The seminar reached a series of conclusions which were published in *International Review of the Red Cross* (November 1976, pages 565-567).

African traditions and humanitarian law. — At the request of the ICRC, Mrs. Yolande Diallo, of Senegal, doctor of laws, University of Grenoble, carried out a mission in West Africa to study similarities and differences between African humanism and the fundamental principles of humanitarian law and of the Red Cross, and to consider possibilities for disseminating these principles in Africa. Mrs. Diallo visited the People's Republic of Benin, Ghana, Togo and Upper Volta.

At the conclusion of her mission, Mrs. Diallo wrote a report which was published in the August number of *International Review of the Red Cross* and reprinted by the ICRC under the title "African Traditions and Humanitarian Law" (in English, French and Spanish).

Teaching of international humanitarian law in Universities. — In July, an institute for teaching international humanitarian law was established at Bogota, Colombia, under the name Inter-American Institute of International Humanitarian Law. The institute is under the direction of Professor Jaramillo.

In co-operation with the University of Santo Tomas at Bogota, the Colombian Red Cross in November organized a national seminar on the dissemination of international humanitarian law in which the ICRC participated by sending two speakers.

Publications. — The principal ICRC publications in 1976 were:

- Report on the Conference of Government Experts at Lugano (English, French, Spanish).
- "Reservations to the Conventions", by Mr. Claude Pilloud (English, French, Spanish).
- "African Traditions and Humanitarian Law", by Mrs. Diallo (English, French, Spanish).
- School textbook and teacher's manual in Swahili.
- Soldier's Manual and Summary of the Conventions in Swahili.
- Analytical Index to the International Review of the Red Cross, in English.
- "The Principles of the Red Cross" by Mr. Jean Pictet, in Arabic.

The ICRC also published a new series of four coloured posters illustrating the application of the four Geneva Conventions.

Soldier's Manual. — The Soldier's Manual in various languages is one of the means used by the ICRC to disseminate knowledge of the Geneva Conventions among the armed forces. In most cases, the National Societies assisted in this action. During 1976 more than 37,000 copies were sent by the ICRC to the following countries: Angola, Bangladesh, Cape Verde, Ethiopia, Mauritania and Morocco. The drawings and texts were adapted to suit the various recipient countries.

The Red Cross of Tanzania translated the Soldier's Manual and the Summary of the Conventions into Swahili; these texts, after having been approved by the Red Cross of Kenya were brought together in a single booklet and an edition of 50,000 copies was published by the ICRC. Twenty thousand copies were sent to Tanzania, 20,000 to Uganda and 10,000 to Kenya.

School Textbook and Teacher's Manual. — The Swahili version of the school textbook "The Red Cross and My Country", published in 1975 by the ICRC, was distributed as follows: 62,000 copies to Kenya, 50,000 to Tanzania, 30,000 to Uganda.

English and French translations of the African version of the school textbook were reprinted and sent for distribution to the following countries: Burundi, Central African Empire, Ghana, Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritius, Niger, Rwanda, Seychelles, Swaziland, Tanzania, Togo and Uganda.

In Asia, financial assistance was given to the Afghan Red Crescent to enable it to publish 19,000 copies of the school textbook in Dari and Pushtu.

IV. RELATIONS WITH RED CROSS INSTITUTIONS AND NATIONAL SOCIETIES

The Red Cross and Peace

During their meetings in November 1975, the Council of Delegates and the Board of Governors of the League of Red Cross Societies had both discussed how the Action Programme adopted in June of the same year at Belgrade by the World Red

Cross Conference on Peace should be put into effect. The first of these bodies entrusted an ad hoc working group with the task of preparing and submitting to the next meeting of the Council of Delegates proposals which would take into account the requests for amendments arising out of certain recommendations in the Action Programme. The Board of Governors, for its part, instructed its Chairman to form a commission with the responsibility of supervising the application of the Programme by the League and the National Societies.

This commission, consisting of representatives from twelve National Societies and the League, met on 12 June 1976 under the chairmanship of Mr. Barroso, Chairman of the League. The ICRC participated as an observer. The commission examined the activities undertaken up to that date by the League and the ICRC to implement the Action Programme for Peace and it put forward a number of proposals aimed at developing or making more widely known the various contributions of the Red Cross towards peace.

The working group started work on 27 October 1976 under the chairmanship of Mr. Hay, President of the ICRC. It was composed of the same members as the commission itself. Another meeting scheduled to take place at the beginning of May 1977 should enable the working group to formulate proposals aimed at co-ordinating the views of those who attended the Belgrade Conference on all recommendations of the Action Programme.

Joint ICRC-League Commission on National Society Statutes

The Commission met three times during 1976: on 4 February, 4 August and 15 December.

It examined the statutes of ten National Societies, to whom it made known its observations and recommendations in accordance with Resolution No. VI of the Twenty-second International Conference of the Red Cross (Teheran 1973). This resolution invited National Societies wishing to alter their statutes on matters relating to conditions of admission and recognition to submit amendments to the ICRC and the League.

In addition, the Commission discussed the files on eleven Societies in the process of formation. After completing the normal procedure, it recommended the recognition by the ICRC of two new Societies, those of the People's Republic of the Congo and of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas, which became members of the International Red Cross on 16 December 1976. Finally, various special questions, relating particularly to the use of the emblem, the application of the fundamental principles and the creation of Red Cross Societies in those countries where none existed, were submitted to the Commission and studied with a view to establishing a joint policy and, if necessary, joint action by the League and the ICRC.

Standing Commission

The Standing Commission met in Geneva three times during the course of 1976: on 11 June, 26 October and 4 November.

The Standing Commission is composed of two representatives from the ICRC, two representatives from the League and five members elected by the Twenty-second International Conference of the Red Cross, namely: Sir Geoffrey Newman-Morris (Australia), Chairman; Mrs. Issa-el-Khoury (Lebanon), Vice-Chairman; Mr. Aitken (Canada); Sir Evelyn Shuckburgh (United Kingdom); and Mrs. Troyan (USSR). Mrs. Issa-el-Khoury, President of the Lebanese Red Cross, was unfortunately unable to come to Geneva owing to the situation in her country at the time of the meetings of the Standing Commission. Mrs. Troyan was replaced by Professor Danilov at the meeting in June and by Dr. Baltiyski, President of the Alliance of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in the USSR, at the meetings in October and November.

In addition, Mr. Sloper (Brazil), technical adviser to the Standing Commission, attended these meetings. Also taking part were representatives from the Romanian Red Cross, notably Colonel-General M. Burca, President of that Society (see below).

Apart from the organization of the Twenty-third International Conference of the Red Cross, the Standing Commission considered the progress achieved in the study and implementation of the Report on the Re-appraisal of the Role of the Red Cross. It also noted reports on the international activities of the Red Cross.

Preparation of the Twenty-third International Conference of the Red Cross

The organization of the Twenty-third International Conference of the Red Cross was entrusted to the Red Cross of the Socialist Republic of Romania. This Conference, which takes place every four years, will be held in Bucharest in October 1977. It is the highest deliberative authority of the Red Cross, bringing together representatives from the National Societies, governments signatories to the Geneva Conventions, the ICRC and the League. In 1976, representatives from the ICRC and the League held discussions with those of the Romanian Red Cross on several occasions, both in Bucharest and in Geneva. In November, the Standing Commission approved the provisional programmes and agenda, and the list of members and observers. In addition to the items traditionally on the agenda of the International Conference, considerable time will be devoted by the Twenty-third to the study of the re-appraisal of the role of the Red Cross.

Meeting on the Re-appraisal of the Role of the Red Cross

Within the programme of meetings of the Board of Governors, the ICRC, in close collaboration with the League, has organized and presided over a meeting which was entirely devoted to an exchange of views on the Final Report concerning the re-appraisal of the role of the Red Cross, also called the Tansley Report after its author.

This information meeting of an informal nature was held on 30 October and was attended by most of the National Society delegations present in Geneva, who made known their points of view on the different problems mentioned in the Tansley Report and on the merits of the Report itself. In view of the Bucharest Conference, the delegations also put forward numerous suggestions on the way in which work on the re-appraisal of the role of the Red Cross should be planned.

As it declared on that occasion, the ICRC has paid particular attention to the conclusions of the Tansley Report. From Autumn 1975, it initiated internal procedures to allow for wide-ranging discussions between the various levels of the administration and the Committee, as well as a careful study of the points raised by Mr. Tansley. It was thus able to define its position with regard to several recommendations of the "Big Study" and it will present its conclusions to the Twenty-third International Conference of the Red Cross in a special paper. Together with the Secretariat of the League, the ICRC also initiated preliminary exchanges of views on the respective positions of the two institutions, aimed at harmonizing the proposals which they will be submitting at Bucharest.

Shôken Fund

Meeting in Geneva in April 1976, the Joint Shôken Fund Commission, composed of representatives from the League and the ICRC, nominated the six beneficiaries of the 55th distribution, in accordance with the allocation criteria. These were the National Societies of the following countries: Afghanistan, Haiti, India, Malawi, Malaysia and Uruguay. The amount awarded, totalling Frs. 146,000, will be used to purchase ambulances, mobile units and radio equipment. (See *International Review of the Red Cross*, June 1976, No. 690 for details and balance-sheet of the Shôken Fund.)

Missions of the President and other Members of the ICRC

In 1976 Mr. Eric Martin retired from the office of President of the ICRC and was succeeded by Mr. Alexander Hay. Both carried out a number of missions in various countries with the

particular aim of strengthening still further the links between the National Societies and the ICRC.

While still President, Mr. Martin carried out the following missions:

- To *Copenhagen*, from 30 April to 3 May, where he attended the centenary ceremonies of the Danish Red Cross.
- To *Bucharest*, from 10 to 16 May, where he attended the Conference of Balkan Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies organized by the Romanian Red Cross.
- To *San Remo*, from 15 to 17 June, for the First International Course on the law of war for Officers.

Succeeding as President of the ICRC, Mr. Alexander Hay went on the following three missions during the course of the year:

- To *San Remo*, from 31 August to 4 September, on the occasion of the 3rd Round Table on "Current Problems of Humanitarian Law".
- To *Paris*, from 4 to 8 November, where he was received by the President of the Republic, Mr. Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, and by the President of the French Red Cross.
- To *Latin America*, from 1 to 12 December, where he was received by the leaders of the National Red Cross Societies of *Argentina, Uruguay, Chile*¹ and *Brazil*. Among other governmental personalities, Mr. Hay met the President of Argentina, General Jorge Videla; the President of Uruguay, Mr. Aparicio Mendez; and the President of Chile, General Pinochet. In these three countries, discussions centred on pursuing the humanitarian activities of the ICRC.

From 1 to 10 June 1976, before acceding to the office of President, Mr. Hay went to the Middle East on a mission to the ICRC delegations in Egypt, Israel and Jordan.

Other leading figures in the ICRC have also been on the move. The itinerary of Mr. Roger Gallopin, President of the Executive Board, was as follows:

- To *Cairo*, from 7 to 16 January, at the invitation of the Egyptian Government and Red Crescent, where he was received by Mrs. Géhane Sadate, Honorary President of the Egyptian Red Crescent, by Mr. Sayed Marei, President of the People's Assembly and by Mr. Mamdouh Salem, the Prime Minister. Mr. Gallopin also had talks with the Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Defence, Health and Social Affairs, and with Mr. Mahmoud Riyad, General Secretary of the Arab League.
- To the *United States and Canada*, from 6 to 28 May, where, at the invitation of the American Red Cross, he took part in the National Society's Portland Convention. Among other government officials in the United States, Mr. Gallopin met Mr. James Wilson, Co-ordinator of Humanitarian Affairs at the State Department, Mr. Joseph Sisco, Under-Secretary of

¹ See also p. 23.

State, and Senator Edward Kennedy. In Canada, apart from discussions with the leaders of the National Societies, Mr. Gallopin had interviews with the Prime Minister, Mr. P.E. Trudeau and with Mr. H. Basil Robinson, Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

- To the *USSR*, from 15 to 23 July, in order to examine various humanitarian problems of mutual concern to the ICRC and the Alliance of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

Mr. Marcel Naville, member of the Committee, represented the ICRC on a number of occasions.

- In *Jordan*, from 16 to 23 January, he was granted an audience with H.M. King Hussein and with H.H. Prince Hassan. He also had talks with Mr. Zaid Rifai, the Prime Minister, and other members of the Government as well as with the President of the Jordanian Red Crescent.
- In *Syria*, from 23 to 26 January, he met General Tlass, Minister of Defence, Mr. Fayez El Nasir, Secretary of State to the Prime Minister, and other leading officials in the Government and the National Society. From 5 to 10 April, he attended the 8th Conference of Arab Red Crescent and Red Cross Societies in Damascus.
- In *Bulgaria*, Mr. Naville attended the 8th Congress of the Bulgarian Red Cross in Sofia on 14 and 15 October.
- In *Italy*, from 7 to 14 December, he visited the Italian Red Cross and met a number of influential people in Rome, including Cardinal Villot.

Mr. Victor H. Umbricht, Vice-President of the Executive Board, visited Syria at the end of July where he had discussions with the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs on the activities of the ICRC in Lebanon.

ICRC Participation in Red Cross Seminars

The ICRC took part during the year in several national and regional Red Cross seminars and assisted in various courses, meetings and conferences, apart from those mentioned in the previous chapter, i.e.:

Africa:

- Seminar on the Conventions, Humanitarian Law and First Aid at Kampala, Uganda, from 16 to 27 February (see page 38).
- National Seminar on Red Cross Principles and Humanitarian Law at Ouagadougou, Upper Volta, on 25 March.
- Seminar of Junior Red Cross leaders in Sudan, from 29 May to 17 July.

- Seminar of the Red Cross of Kenya at Nairobi, 21 and 22 July.
- The regional training institute organized by the League of Red Cross Societies in co-operation with the Upper Volta Red Cross at Ouagadougou from 2 to 4 August.

Americas:

- 7th meeting of Presidents and Technical Personnel of North America, Mexico, Central America and Panamanian National Societies at Managua, Nicaragua, from 2 to 5 May.
- 3rd Inter-American meeting of heads of information and public relations, promotion and fund-raising at Mexico City from 5 to 10 September.
- Meeting of presidents and technical personnel of the Bolivarian Red Cross Societies at Quito, Ecuador, from 16 to 19 November.
- Seminar on the dissemination of International Humanitarian Law at Bogota, 25 November (see page 39).

Asia:

- Meeting of the National Societies of the ASEAN at Jakarta from 1 to 5 March.

The ICRC also assisted the League and the Red Cross of Fiji in the organization of the regional training institute at Suva from 6 to 16 September and from 20 to 24 September. The institute courses were devoted to disaster relief training for representatives of National Societies in the South Pacific.

Europe:

- Third meeting of European directors of the Junior Red Cross at Malaga from 1 to 5 February.
- Red Cross seminar for journalists on the dissemination of knowledge of the Conventions, at Stockholm, 8 and 9 March.
- Seminar of the Swedish Red Cross on disaster relief, at Hallstavik from 13 to 16 May.
- Course for future delegates organized by the Finnish Red Cross at Helsinki from 11 to 15 October.

Middle East:

- Special conference of Arab Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies at Kuwait, 15 and 16 August.

Visits

In 1976 the ICRC visitors service received 5,221 persons including 1,232 leaders, delegates or members of National Red Cross, Red Crescent and Red Lion-and-Sun Societies.