

**Zeitschrift:** Annual report / International Committee of the Red Cross  
**Herausgeber:** International Committee of the Red Cross  
**Band:** - (1978)  
  
**Rubrik:** Principles and law

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headquarters and in the field. The CTA in Geneva had to meet needs for qualified staff in the field and handle the heavy workload involved in the management of a constantly developing organization.

Finally, we would mention that in 1978 was initiated the programme for the micro-filming of records which are rarely consulted. Some 17 million documents are involved.

#### Relations with the tracing offices of National Societies

The CTA endeavours to intensify its contacts with the National Societies, either to induce them to set up tracing offices of their own with technical assistance from the CTA, or, with National Societies which already have a tracing office, to discuss and standardize working methods. In 1978 it had exchanges of views in this field with the Red Cross Societies of the Federal Republic of Germany, the United Kingdom, Hungary, Poland, Romania and Czechoslovakia. The persons in charge of their tracing offices visited the CTA headquarters in Geneva.

#### WORK TO ORDER ON AN INDUSTRIAL SCALE

The conflict in the Asian Sub-Continent (1971), brief as it was, necessitated records on 600,000 index cards, the transmission of 15 million messages and the registration of 500,000 people desiring to go to Pakistan or to Bangladesh.

Time is therefore of the essence, and yet every one of the thousands of cases is given individual attention, a personal file is opened and the CTA sees the case through to the very end. Quick action and perseverance is called for: although the CTA must follow the operational pace of the ICRC, it must also continue its work when the crisis is past and when indifference has erased emotion.

For example, 33 years after the end of the Second World War, the Polish Service of the CTA received, in 1978 alone, 12,125 requests, despatched 14,776 mail items, initiated 1,023 inquiries, closed 211 cases and issued 2,665 certificates of captivity.

## PRINCIPLES AND LAW

#### Reorientation of ICRC activities in the juridical field

For many years the ICRC had laid emphasis in its juridical activities primarily on the development and reaffirmation of international humanitarian law. Its efforts bore fruit with the adoption in 1977, by the Diplomatic Conference, of the two Protocols additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 (see Annual Report 1977, pp. 40-45).

In 1978, the ICRC took up the task of furthering the implementation of what had been achieved in the juridical field, and its efforts may be expected to be intensified in the next few years. These efforts are being applied in three directions:

- (1) to encourage States to become parties to the Protocols;
- (2) to analyze and comment on the new law;
- (3) to disseminate international humanitarian law in general and the Principles and ideals of the Red Cross which are closely linked to it.

The first point is dealt with on pages 55 and 56 and the third on pages 57 to 61 of the present Report.

The second point consists mainly in drawing up a commentary to the 1977 Protocols. Having participated in all the stages of their elaboration, the ICRC experts certainly appear to be qualified for the task. Like the Commentary to the Geneva Conventions, this publication will be a tool for all who will be required to apply the new law, and a work of reference for those who teach and conduct research in international humanitarian law. This activity still being in the internal stage, it will not be discussed in this Report.

#### ICRC activity and doctrine

But doctrine, even more and beyond questions of law, has always occupied a preponderant place in ICRC activity. Indeed, there are extensive areas of ICRC activity which are not covered, or are only partly covered, by international humanitarian law. The ICRC endeavours, in such cases, to base itself on principles which ensure the continuity of its work. The principles concern partly internal, partly public matters, and they are established by the ICRC itself. They cover the most diverse fields such as ICRC activities in favour of "political" prisoners (see on this subject page 42), or such important questions as "the Red Cross and Peace", or "the emblem". But they deal also with less general problems, such as the attitude of the ICRC to the detention of hostages, or the communication of protests at alleged violations of the Conventions. As can be seen, the principles define the attitude to be adopted by the ICRC in situations covered by international humanitarian law (emblem, breaches of the Conventions) but in which rules for complementary action are still wanting. Furthermore, they provide guidelines in matters not considered by the law.

In sum, in the framework of the authority confirmed by the Statutes of the International Red Cross, the ICRC formulates principles which guide its action whenever no basis, or no

adequate basis, is to be found in international humanitarian law or in the Red Cross law (fundamental principles, statutes, resolutions).

### Structure of the Department of Principles and Law

The Department of Principles and Law, whose responsibility it is to carry out the various tasks mentioned above and in the following pages, comprises three divisions: the Legal Division, the Documentation and Dissemination Division, and the National Societies and Principles Division.

Those activities of the Legal Division which are not dwelt on at length in this Report include the many consultations which it is required to give on legal questions to inquirers from outside and to other services at the ICRC, particularly its Operations Department.

## Development of International Humanitarian Law

### SEQUELS TO THE DIPLOMATIC CONFERENCE

#### Entry into force of the Protocols

The two Protocols additional to the Geneva Conventions of August 12, 1949, adopted on 8 June 1977 by the Diplomatic Conference on the Reaffirmation and Development of International Humanitarian Law applicable in Armed Conflicts, entered into force on 7 December 1978. Protocol I relates to the protection of victims of international armed conflicts; Protocol II to the victims of non-international armed conflicts.

Article 95 of Protocol I and article 23 of Protocol II specify that these documents enter into force six months after two instruments of ratification or accession have been deposited. The Government of Ghana was first, on 28 February 1978, to deposit a letter of ratification with the Swiss Federal Council. It was followed by the Government of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya which deposited a letter of accession on 7 June 1978.

Although the two Protocols came into force on 7 December 1978, they are, of course, binding only on those States which have become Contracting Parties.

**ICRC APPEAL.**—On the occasion of the entry into force of the Protocols, the ICRC appealed to the Governments of the States parties to the 1949 Geneva Conventions and those of other States which took part in the Diplomatic Conference to ratify or accede to the two new instruments. A few extracts from the appeal are given below:

*“The International Committee of the Red Cross has every reason to congratulate itself for this achievement, coming after the long effort which it has sustained since its foundation, with the constant support of the Swiss Confederation, with the aim of ensuring that human beings are better protected in time of armed conflict until peace based on justice reigns on earth. It was from such efforts that the various versions of the Geneva Conventions emerged in 1864, 1906, 1929 and 1949, to provide an invaluable safeguard for so many human beings. The 1949 Conventions, with some 450 articles, are now supplemented by almost 150 provisions—nearly all adopted by consensus, we would stress—of the Protocols. Together they contain some 600 articles.*

*While no enterprise of this nature may achieve perfection, it is agreed that the 1977 Protocols are a considerable progress in conferring the force of law on the principles contained in humanitarian law recognized by all peoples. They are a timely re-statement of the respect due to an enemy who has been disarmed and to persons taking no part in hostilities. They also provide the Red Cross with stronger grounds on which to base its so necessary action. It may be held that the significance of the provisions in which the work from 1974 to 1977 culminated is comparable to that of the recasting of the Geneva Conventions themselves in 1949.*

*As we approach the end of the year in which was celebrated with zeal throughout the world the 150th anniversary of the birth of Henry Dunant, the prime mover in the founding of the Red Cross and promoter of the Geneva Conventions, the International Committee appeals to the governments of States parties to those Conventions to ratify as soon as possible the two 1977 Protocols or to accede thereto and thereby include the names of their countries on the humanitarian roll of honour. The International Committee, for its part, is prepared to help as much as is considered useful in promoting the accession procedure.*

*By becoming parties to the Protocols, by ratification or accession, governments will demonstrate the importance which they attach to the better observance throughout the world of the fundamental rules of Geneva and will at the same time manifest their determination to ensure that they are implemented. Thereby, they will respond to the desire of the peoples to see the universal acceptance of guarantees which are essential for mankind.”*

A copy of this appeal, which was launched in agreement with the League of Red Cross Societies, was sent to the National Red Cross, Red Crescent and Red Lion and Sun Societies.

### THE ICRC IN THE STATUTES OF THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS

**According to the Statutes of the International Red Cross, the ICRC is a neutral institution whose humanitarian work is carried out particularly in time of war, civil war, or internal strife. It endeavours at all times to ensure the protection of and assistance to military and civilian victims of such conflicts and of their direct results. It takes any humanitarian initiative which comes within its role as a specifically neutral and independent institution and intermediary and considers any question requiring examination by such an institution. It also maintains the fundamental principles of the Red Cross.**

**SIGNATURES, RATIFICATIONS AND ACCESSIONS TO THE PROTOCOLS.** — From 11 December 1977 to 10 December 1978, the period prescribed for the purpose (article 92 of Protocol I and article 20 of Protocol II), the Governments of 62 States signed Protocol I and those of 58 States Protocol II, namely: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Canada, Chile, Cyprus \* Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Finland, German Democratic Republic, Germany (Federal Republic of), Ghana, Greece \*, Guatemala, Holy See, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Iran, Ireland, Italy, Ivory Coast, Jordan, Korea (Republic of), Laos, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Mongolia, Morocco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Philippines \*, Poland, Portugal, Romania, San Marino, Senegal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Togo, Tunisia, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom, United States of America, Upper Volta, Viet Nam \*, Yemen Arab Republic and Yugoslavia.

Besides Ghana and the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, a third State—El Salvador—became a party to the two Protocols, when its Government deposited a letter of ratification with the Swiss Federal Council on 23 November 1978.

#### **The weapons question \*\***

**UNITED NATIONS PREPARATORY CONFERENCE.**—The Preparatory Conference for the United Nations Conference on Prohibitions or Restrictions of Use of Certain Conventional Weapons which may be Deemed to be Excessively Injurious or to have Indiscriminate Effects was held in Geneva from 28 August to 15 September 1978. The purpose of the Preparatory Conference was to prepare the ground for the main conference on the same subject. The decision to hold such a conference had been made by the 1977 Diplomatic Conference (Resolution No. 22, referred to in the ICRC Annual Report 1977, page 46) and confirmed by the United Nations General Assembly at its thirty-second session (A/Res.32/152).

The Preparatory Conference, which was attended by 74 States, was concerned mainly with the drawing up of rules of procedure which would be valid also for the main conference. Widely divergent views having emerged on how substantive decisions were to be reached, the Preparatory Conference decided to meet for a second session in Geneva from 19 March to 12 April 1979. In addition, it was proposed to the United Nations General Assembly that the main conference be held in Geneva from 10 to 28 September 1979; this was adopted by the General Assembly at its thirty-third session.

The Preparatory Conference included a special article in its Rules of Procedure, granting observer status to the ICRC and mentioning the high quality of the ICRC experts' reports. It gave the ICRC far-reaching prerogatives, namely, the right to take part in the discussions and attend all meetings.

\* These four States signed only Protocol I.

\*\* On the participation of the ICRC at the Extraordinary Session of the United Nations General Assembly on disarmament, see p. 64.

**THIRD GÖTEBORG SYMPOSIUM.**—The ICRC sent a delegate to the Third International Symposium on Terminal Ballistics, held in Göteborg from 6 to 8 December 1978, organized by the National Defence Research Institute, Stockholm, and the University of Göteborg. Terminal ballistics is concerned with the mechanics of bullet wounds, the body's response to the wound and the various reactions engendered. The Third Symposium's purpose was to constitute an inter-disciplinary forum for the exchange of information on these matters, of which little was known, with a view to reaching subsequently an agreement prohibiting bullets with excessively injurious effects.

Nearly 120 experts from sixteen countries—mainly the principal member countries of NATO and the Warsaw Pact—attended the symposium. Besides the government experts, there were also several biologists and civilian surgeons, specialized in the treatment of gunshot wounds, who took an active part in the work.

Some of the participating countries are following the Swedish example and are conducting research not only into the effects of small-calibre projectiles but also of all guns used by the military and police forces. Some of the results of the research show, among other things, that no great advantage comes from the use of extremely powerful bullets. The ICRC is following this question closely, because of its humanitarian aspects.

#### **PARTICIPATION IN MEETINGS ON INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW**

ICRC staff members took part in the following meetings dealing with questions relating to the Geneva Conventions and the 1977 Protocols, or to other subjects connected with the development of international humanitarian law:

*Meeting of National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies of the Balkan Countries*, in Skopje (Yugoslavia), from 12 to 14 June. The purpose of this meeting was to examine the role of National Societies pursuant to Protocol I. The ICRC and the Henry Dunant Institute had prepared a document of about forty pages on this subject.

*Meeting of experts on the draft conventions banning torture*, in St. Gall (Switzerland), from 29 June to 1 July. Some forty experts of various nationalities attended this meeting which examined the following three draft conventions to prohibit torture:

- (1) Draft international convention banning torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading penalties or treatment, submitted to the Human Rights Committee by the Swedish Government.
- (2) Draft convention on the prevention and suppression of torture, submitted in the form of a written declaration to the Human Rights Committee by the International Association of Penal Law.
- (3) Draft convention on the treatment of persons deprived of their freedom (drawn up by a group of experts in Geneva on the initiative of Mr. J.-J. Gautier).

At this meeting a member of the ICRC staff presented a paper on "Torture and international law applicable in armed conflicts".



*Ninth session of the International Institute of Human Rights*, in Strasbourg (France), from 3 to 28 July. A member of the ICRC staff gave a course on the 1977 Protocols and others directed study groups.

*Fifth Round Table on Current Problems of International Humanitarian Law*, organized by the International Institute of Humanitarian Law at San Remo from 6 to 9 September. The Round Table, attended by some forty experts of various nationalities, discussed the following subjects:

- international humanitarian law, human rights, disarmament;
- the draft conventions banning torture;
- implementation and dissemination of international humanitarian law and the fundamental Red Cross principles;
- guide on procedures for the reuniting of families;
- guidelines for legal advisers;
- recruitment and training of qualified personnel at national level.

*Seminar at The Hague* on 25 and 26 September, organized by the Netherlands Red Cross, on the 1977 Protocols. The seminar was attended by many officers from various sections of the Netherlands Armed Forces and by representatives of the Ministries of Defence and of Foreign Affairs. Discussion centred mainly on the protection of civilians under Protocols I and II.

## **Dissemination of International Humanitarian Law and of the Principles and Ideals of the Red Cross**

The Statutes of the International Red Cross, of the ICRC, of the League, and of many National Societies contain provisions for the dissemination by the Red Cross of international humanitarian law and of the Red Cross Principles and ideals. This is the subject of several International Red Cross Conference resolutions and of Resolution 21 of the Diplomatic Conference on the Reaffirmation and Development of International Humanitarian Law applicable in Armed Conflicts (Geneva, 1977). Its importance for the future of the Red Cross was underlined also in the Report on the Re-appraisal of the Role of the Red Cross (D. Tansley, 1975).

### **RED CROSS ACTION PROGRAMME**

Pursuant to Resolution VII of the Twenty-third International Red Cross Conference (Bucharest, 1977) which

*invites National Societies to intensify their efforts, in collaboration with their governments, for the dissemination of knowledge of international humanitarian law and of its principles as widely as possible among the population and especially among youth,*

and

*requests the ICRC and the League to lay down guidelines for their co-operation in the sphere of dissemination in order to give more effective help to National Societies in drawing up programmes of activities concerning the dissemination of knowledge of international humanitarian law and the training of national officers in this field,*

the ICRC and the League drew up and adopted in 1978

*a Programme of Action of the Red Cross with respect to Dissemination of International Humanitarian Law and the Principles and Ideals of the Red Cross, 1978-81.*

By the formulation of this Programme, the ICRC and League endeavoured to achieve *five aims*:

- take stock as fully as possible of activities which the Red Cross may reasonably contemplate undertaking from 1978 to 1981 for the dissemination of international humanitarian law and of Red Cross Principles and ideals, provided the necessary funds were forthcoming;
- confer on this inventory the nature of a Programme of Action, with specific plans and projects, together with indications of their budgetary implications;
- propose ways and means for financing this Programme of Action;
- define the respective tasks, in this field, of the ICRC and of the League, consistent with the spirit and the letter of the Statutes of the International Red Cross, the ICRC and the League, and reaffirm the role befalling the National Societies and the Henry Dunant Institute;
- explain on what legal grounds and in accordance with what principles of action this programme should be put into practice.

The Programme of Action comprises *four objectives*:

- to encourage States to accede to the Protocols additional to the Geneva Conventions, or to ratify them;
- to analyse the legal and practical consequences of the provisions of the Protocols additional to the Geneva Conventions;
- to disseminate and encourage the dissemination of international humanitarian law among National Societies, governments, armed forces, universities, international organizations and other institutions or groups concerned;
- to integrate the dissemination of the Principles and ideals of the Red Cross into all the Red Cross movement's activities among National Societies, young people, the public at large, and international institutions.

These four objectives are divided into *three parts* which are quite distinct:

- accession to the Protocols (objective 1)
- research (objective 2)
- dissemination, education, training (objectives 3 and 4).

In addition, an annex to the Programme of Action contains a number of ideas which could be put into practice at some future date but which, at this stage, do not form part of the Programme of Action.

## PROCEDURE REGARDING ACCESSION TO THE ADDITIONAL PROTOCOLS

The ADOPTION of the Additional Protocols by the Diplomatic Conference means that the government representatives reached agreement upon a text which it had been their task to elaborate. It does not mean that the States are already bound by that text.

The next stage consists in signing the Protocols in the time prescribed, the SIGNATURE representing the government's undertaking made on behalf of the State, subject to ratification. The Protocols may be signed only by States parties to the Geneva Conventions, since the Protocols are "additional" to the Conventions. A State which is not a party to the Conventions desiring to sign the Protocols must, therefore, first accede to the Conventions.

RATIFICATION confirms the undertaking assumed by signing. It is an internal procedure which is peculiar to each State and which may take some time. Once the instrument of ratification has been transmitted to the Swiss Federal Council—the depositary of the Protocols—the State concerned is definitely bound by the Protocols, which enter into force, for that State, six months later.

A State not having signed the Protocols within the stated time may nevertheless become a party to them by accession. ACCESSION—like ratification—is a definite undertaking and is generally subject, in the internal procedure of States, to the same conditions as ratification. For acceding States too, the Protocols enter into force six months after the deposit of the instrument of accession with the Swiss Federal Council.

LIBERATION MOVEMENTS engaged, as mentioned in article 1 of Protocol I, in "armed conflicts in which peoples struggle against colonial domination and alien occupation and against racist régimes in the exercise of their right of self-determination" may not become parties to the Conventions and Protocol I. However, pursuant to article 96(3) of the Protocol, the authority representing a people engaged in such conflict against a High Contracting Party may make a declaration to the Swiss Federal Council in which it undertakes to apply the Conventions and Protocol I. If its enemy is a party to these instruments, it thereupon has the same rights and duties under the terms thereof as has its enemy.

## DISSEMINATION AMONG NATIONAL SOCIETIES AND GOVERNMENTS

Several points in the Programme of Action concern the preparation of National Societies in the field of dissemination of international humanitarian law and Red Cross Principles and ideals. The ICRC, in co-operation with the League, has the task, inter alia, of encouraging National Societies to appoint persons to undertake responsibility for dissemination and of helping such people in their training efforts, particularly by organizing seminars and publishing teaching material.

### Regional seminars

As a result of the favourable experience met with at the Warsaw seminar (see Annual Report 1977, pp. 47-48) and after consultations with the African English-speaking and French-speaking groups, the Asian group and the Latin American group at the Twenty-third International Red Cross Conference, the ICRC decided to continue with these activities and to organize similar seminars jointly with National Societies in these various regions. Consequently, two seminars were held in 1978:

- *The First African Red Cross and Red Crescent Seminar on the Dissemination of International Humanitarian Law*: Organized jointly by the Kenya Red Cross and the ICRC, this seminar was held in Mombasa from 11 to 26 August. It was attended by twenty English-speaking National Societies of African countries, namely, those of Botswana, Egypt,

Ethiopia, Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Malawi, Mauritius, Nigeria, Rhodesia/Zimbabwe, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Sudan, Swaziland, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia. The League and the ICRC also sent delegations to the seminar.

- *The First Asian Seminar on International Humanitarian Law*, which was organized jointly by the Malaysian Red Crescent and the ICRC, took place in Kuala Lumpur from 14 to 24 November. Nineteen National Societies participated, namely, those of Australia, Bangladesh, Fiji, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Republic of Korea, India, Indonesia, Iran, Japan, Malaysia, Nepal, New Zealand, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Viet Nam.

The aim of these seminars is to promote better knowledge of international humanitarian law among the National Societies, to make them aware of the role they have to fulfil in its dissemination and to seek with them the most appropriate methods to reach the sectors concerned: armed forces, universities, schools, general public, etc.

The seminars are divided into two parts. The first is devoted to lectures, followed by a discussion, on general questions of international humanitarian law (history and nature of international humanitarian law, international humanitarian law and Human Rights, the four 1949 Geneva Conventions, the two Protocols of 1977, etc.). For the second part the participants split into two working groups: one to consider dissemination

among the armed forces, universities and schools, the training of staff, and the possible role, potential and methods of action of National Societies in those sectors; the other to consider dissemination within National Societies and the public at large, and also the training of staff. The working groups endeavour to draw up, as far as possible, definite conclusions for adoption by the seminar at the closing plenary meeting.

In view of the subjects discussed, the National Societies are invited to include in their delegations a government expert (from the Ministry of Defence, of Education or of the Interior) in order to facilitate their subsequent contacts with governmental authorities when dissemination programmes have to be organized.

The regional seminars aim also to train members of National Societies to become specialists in dissemination programmes, so that each Society may then organize national seminars and pass on and put into practice what they have learnt.

The results of the 1978 seminars at Mombasa and Kuala Lumpur were very encouraging. Their longer-term effects will, however, depend on the action taken in the various countries to follow up the proposals and ideas which emerged. In this respect the National Societies have a leading role.

Other seminars are being planned for the *National Societies of Latin America*, in Bogota (Colombia, March 1979), for *French-speaking National Societies of Africa*, in Tunis (Tunisia, October 1979), and for the *National Societies of the Arab Countries of the Middle East*, in Amman (Jordan, 1980).

## DISSEMINATION AMONG YOUNG PEOPLE

### Gdansk meeting

One of the results of the First European Red Cross Seminar on the Dissemination of the Geneva Conventions (Warsaw, March 1977) was the *European Meeting on Red Cross Teaching of Humanitarian Principles to Young People* at Gdansk in Poland from 2 to 12 October, in conformity with the joint ICRC-Polish Red Cross dissemination programme for 1978-81 which had been approved by the Twenty-third International Red Cross Conference (see Annual Report 1977, page 48). This meeting of National Red Cross Societies of Europe and North America was attended by the Red Cross Societies of sixteen countries, namely: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Finland, German Democratic Republic, Germany (Federal Republic of), Hungary, Romania, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom and Yugoslavia, as well as by the organizers, the Polish Red Cross and the ICRC. The League, which was closely associated in the preparation of the meeting, was also represented.

The aim of the meeting was to compile as complete as possible an inventory of methods for dissemination among young people, from which each National Society would select those which it considered most suitable for its own particular case. To that end, the National Society, League and ICRC representatives described their achievements and experience in dissemination among young people. A preliminary list was included in the conclusions. Further methods will be added by the ICRC and/or the League, in addition to any new ideas thought up by the National Societies.

The meeting also examined the "Red Cross Teaching Guide" (see below) and commented very favourably on it.

### Other meetings

The ICRC also took part in the following youth meetings and training courses organized by the League:

- *Fourth European Regional Meeting of National Red Cross Youth Directors*, Oslo (Norway), 31 March to 4 April 1978
- *Sub-regional Training Course for National Red Cross Youth Instructors*, Lusaka (Zambia), 16-28 April 1978
- *Sub-regional Training Course for National Red Cross Instructors in English-speaking National Societies of West Africa*, Accra (Ghana), 28 July to 9 August 1978
- *First Regional Arab Meeting of Red Crescent and Red Cross Youth Directors*, Kuwait, 12-16 September 1978.

### School textbook

Since it was first published in 1967, the school textbook *The Red Cross and My Country*, designed for primary grades, has been printed in more than a score of languages. It is used in 66 countries, mainly in Africa, Asia and the Middle East.

In September 1978 the Documentation and Dissemination Division of the ICRC and the League Youth Bureau sent the directors of French-speaking African National Society Youth Sections a joint letter on the assessment of the "School Textbook" programme, with a questionnaire on the distribution of the textbook and of the "Teacher's Manual" (a publication for the guidance of teachers).

Following the replies which it received, the ICRC despatched to Mali, Mauritania and Togo 5,000 copies each of the French version of the African edition of the textbook and 100 copies of the "Teacher's Manual". To Mauritania it also sent 400 copies of the "Teacher's Manual" in Arabic.

In addition, the ICRC sent copies of the English version of the African edition to South Africa (10,000 copies and 700 copies of the "Teacher's Manual"), Gambia (6,000) and Uganda (5,000).

### The Red Cross Teaching Guide

In September 1977 the ICRC and the League had together published a new teaching guide, in this case designed for secondary school teachers and entitled: *The Red Cross Teaching Guide* (see Annual Report 1977, page 48). This was first published in French and English, the idea being that, on the basis of the original edition, National Societies and interested governments would themselves work on a national edition to meet the requirements of their respective countries.

In 1978 the study of the Red Cross Teaching Guide was on the agendas of several meetings and seminars already mentioned in this chapter, i.e. the seminars on dissemination at *Mombasa* and *Kuala Lumpur*, and the meetings in *Gdansk*, *Oslo* and *Kuwait*. These provided the opportunity for detailed examination of the use of the Guide and of possibilities for its adaptation to different countries, translation, reprinting, and so forth.

The *Spanish Red Cross* completed the translation and printing in Spanish. The *Romanian Red Cross* translated it into Roman-

## ACCESSIONS TO THE GENEVA CONVENTIONS

In 1978 two new States became parties to the 1949 Geneva Conventions—THE REPUBLIC OF DJIBOUTI and the KINGDOM OF TONGA—by declarations of succession to the Swiss Federal Council on, respectively, 6 March and 13 April.

The said Conventions entered into force with retroactive effect, for the Republic of Djibouti, to 27 June 1977 and, for the Kingdom of Tonga, to 4 June 1970, these being the dates when these countries became independent States.

At the end of 1978 the number of States parties to the Geneva Conventions was 145.

ian, while the *Polish Red Cross* translated the teaching outlines (showing how the Red Cross can be introduced as a subject in a variety of lessons) which are included in the Guide and undertook a trial use of the Guide in a Polish school. The *Belgian Red Cross* announced its intention of publishing the Guide in the form of monthly booklets. The *Turkish Red Crescent* translated the Information File on the Geneva Conventions.

### Dissemination in universities

*International Congress on the Teaching of Human Rights:* An ICRC delegation attended this congress organized in Vienna by Unesco from 12 to 16 September 1978 in order principally to ensure that the teaching of international humanitarian law should have a place alongside the teaching of Human Rights.

This point was included in the general conclusions adopted by the congress, recommending that the teaching of Human Rights should cover respect for human rights in armed conflicts and that it should include the teaching of international humanitarian law, and that the ICRC should be furnished with assistance to draw up an international programme for the teaching of humanitarian law with emphasis on the appropriate aspects of international humanitarian law that should be included in the material for the teaching of Human Rights at all levels.

Preparatory to that congress and at the request of Unesco, the ICRC had drawn up a document of some fifteen pages entitled "The Dissemination of International Humanitarian Law in general and its Teaching in Universities in particular".

## DISSEMINATION AMONG THE ARMED FORCES

### Soldier's Manual

The Soldier's Manual is one of the means the ICRC uses to disseminate knowledge of the Geneva Conventions among the armed forces. It has been translated in thirteen languages, and was used, in 1978, by the troops of 72 countries in Africa, Latin America, Asia and the Middle East.

During the year 50,000 copies of a *Bengali version* were printed in Bangladesh.

The ICRC provided the Somali Red Crescent with 17,000 copies of a *Somali version*.

### International course on the law of war

For the third consecutive year the ICRC took an active part in the International Course for Officers on the Law of War,

organized by the San Remo International Institute for Humanitarian Law. The course was directed by an ICRC staff member, who has the rank of lieutenant colonel.

Two sessions—the fourth and fifth courses—took place in 1978. The first of these, from 14 to 21 June, was in French and was attended by officers from Belgium, Benin, Canada, Iran, Italy, Senegal, Switzerland, Upper Volta and Zaire.

The second session from 6 to 13 September was the first course to be given in English. Some thirty officers took part, members of the armed forces of Canada, Egypt, Finland, Germany (Federal Republic of), Greece, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Netherlands, Philippines, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the United States.

These courses, which include both theoretical subjects and practical exercises, deal mainly with the implications of the law of the Hague, the Geneva Conventions and the 1977 Protocols with regard to the conduct of hostilities.

### Missions in the United States...

The ICRC official referred to under the previous heading also went to the United States in May and October 1978 to participate and to conduct exercises in two courses on the law of war for American military jurists:

- the *Eighth Law of War Instructor Course* organized by *The Judge Advocate General's School*, Charlottesville, Virginia, and
- the *Annual Conference of Judge Advocates of the United States Navy and Marine Corps*, in Washington.

During his second stay in the United States, the ICRC representative also read a paper on the 1977 Protocols to a "Workshop Conference" organized on that subject by the *Strategic Institute* of the *US Army War College*, Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania. He also delivered two lectures: one on the law of war and the commanding officer's functions, at the *National Defense College*, and the other on the ICRC and humanitarian law at *George Washington University* in Washington.

### ... and in the Federal Republic of Germany

In November he spoke and conducted exercises on the law of war for Belgian officers (in French) and for officers of the Federal Republic of Germany (in German) stationed in the region of Arolsen, near Kassel.



## Switzerland

On the initiative of the ICRC, an Egyptian and a Norwegian officer took part in November in the second *Introductory Course on the Law of Nations in Time of War*, organized each year in Geneva by the Swiss Army.

## PUBLICATIONS

In 1978, the ICRC brought out the following publications:

- *International Review of the Red Cross*, published every two months (English, French and Spanish, see also page 67)
- *Protocols additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949* (Arabic version)
- *African Traditions and Humanitarian Law No. II* by Yoland Diallo (English and French versions)
- *The ICRC and Disarmament*, an off-print of "International Review of the Red Cross" (English, French and Spanish)
- *New edition of the ICRC leaflet* (English, French, Japanese and German versions)
- *School textbook, "The Red Cross and My Country"*, new edition of the French language African edition
- *ICRC Annual Report 1977* (versions in English, French, German and Spanish)
- *International Committee of the Red Cross in Africa* (in English, French, German, Portuguese, Spanish and Swahili).

## Relations with National Red Cross Societies and the Red Cross Institutions

### RELATIONS WITH THE NATIONAL SOCIETIES

The ICRC is naturally called upon to maintain relationships with governments, since it is they who grant the necessary facilities for it to carry out its mission for the benefit of conflict victims. As a constituent part of the International Red Cross it desires also to keep in close touch with all the National Societies and with their federation, the League of Red Cross Societies.

The Statutes of the ICRC contain provisions making it responsible for certain specific tasks within the movement, such as maintaining the fundamental principles of the Red Cross and recognizing newly established or re-established National Societies, whose number rose, in 1978, to 125. In

addition, the ICRC has always considered it to be one of its basic duties to make every possible effort to bring about greater unity within the movement. Finally—and most important—National Societies, in co-operation with the ICRC, can or do contribute substantially to action for the benefit of victims of conflicts and related circumstances.

### Joint ICRC-League Commission on National Society Statutes

The Joint ICRC-League Commission on National Society Statutes met on 20 June and 7 November, pursuant to Resolution VI of the Twenty-second International Red Cross Conference (Teheran, 1973) which asked Societies wishing to change their Statutes to inform the two international institutions of the planned changes and to take their recommendations into account.

The Commission applied itself particularly to verifying that the documents submitted to it were consistent with the rules in force within the Red Cross.

It also dealt with a number of cases relating to the implementation of the fundamental principles or to observance of the conditions for recognition and admission.

Finally, contact was made with seven nascent Societies with a view to their recognition by the ICRC in due course.

The total number of cases studied and dealt with by the Commission in 1978 was 24.

### Meeting at the ICRC of leaders of National Society members of the League Executive Council

Taking advantage of the now more frequent sessions of the League Executive Council—required by the League new Constitution, adopted in 1977, to meet twice a year in Geneva—the ICRC decided to change the nature of the meetings which it organized for the participating National Society leaders. It wished to confer on these meetings the character of a veritable exchange of views so as to allow the National Society leaders to take a more active part in discussions and, especially, to obtain their opinions on questions of common interest. It thereby intended to take into account a suggestion put forward by Mr. Tansley in his Report on the Re-appraisal of the Role of the Red Cross.

The ICRC put its decision into effect for the first time on the occasion of the two meetings of the League Executive Council in Geneva in 1978. As a result, the representatives of more than forty National Societies participated in two meetings at ICRC headquarters, one on 5 May, the other on 26 October.

During the meeting on 5 May, the first part of which was devoted to an account of ICRC activities, the participants examined proposals for the subjects to be discussed at later

## INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS CONFERENCE

The International Red Cross Conference is the supreme deliberative body of the Red Cross movement. Every four years it brings together delegations of the National Red Cross, Red Crescent and Red Lion and Sun Societies, the League of Red Cross Societies, the International Committee of the Red Cross, and the States parties to the Geneva Conventions.



meetings. These included the role of National Societies under the 1977 Protocols, the dissemination of the Geneva Conventions and of the Principles and ideals of the Red Cross, the problem of specially earmarked relief, the question of National Societies and the taking of hostages, and the concept of specific Red Cross protection.

The meeting on 26 October proceeded on similar lines: after a talk on ICRC operations, discussion turned to one of the subjects suggested in May, namely, "the concept of Red Cross protection and how to make it better known".

#### Visits to the ICRC by National Societies

Besides the meetings referred to above, the ICRC received about 1,400 members and a number of leaders of National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies at its headquarters in 1978.

#### Missions by the President and Members of the ICRC to National Societies and Governments

The President of the ICRC, Mr. Alexander Hay, visited the National Societies and authorities of the following countries: *Bulgaria* (centenary of the Bulgarian Red Cross), *Malaysia* (First Asian Seminar on the dissemination of international humanitarian law), *USSR* (invited by the Alliance of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies of the USSR), *Yugoslavia*, and, during travel related particularly to ICRC operations in the field or to the financing of the ICRC, *Algeria, Canada, Indonesia, Iran, Morocco, Mauritania, Netherlands, Norway* and the *United States*.

Various missions were undertaken also by members of the ICRC. Mr. Richard Pestalozzi, Special Assistant to the President, went to *Somalia* and *Kenya*, Mr. Thomas Fleiner to *Ethiopia*, Mr. Athos Gallino to *Portugal*, and Mr. Marcel A. Naville, former President, to *Nicaragua*.

#### Participation in regional meetings and seminars

In addition to the meetings referred to in the chapter on the dissemination of international humanitarian law and Red Cross Principles and ideals, ICRC representatives attended the following Red Cross regional meetings and seminars:

##### *Africa*

- Tenth Conference of Red Crescent and Red Cross Societies in Arab Countries, Rabat, 10-15 April.
- Meeting for the Co-ordination of Red Cross Assistance to the Victims of the Armed Conflicts in Southern Africa, Dar es Salaam, 23-25 July.
- Meeting of Representatives of Red Crescent and Red Cross Societies of States Members of the Islamic Conference Organization, Benghazi, 30 September-2 October.

##### *America*

- Eighth Meeting of Presidents and Technical Personnel of National Red Cross Societies of the United States, Mexico, Central America and Panama, San José, 14-18 February.

##### *Europe*

- Finnish Red Cross Training Course for Future Delegates, at Lohjansaari (Finland), 15-19 May.
- Meeting of National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies of Balkan countries, Skopje, 12-14 June.

- Meeting of Heads of Information and Public Relations Services of the National Societies of Western Europe and North America, Madrid, 18-20 September.
- Seminar for Editors of European National Societies, Warsaw, 13-16 November.

#### STANDING COMMISSION

Under the chairmanship of Sir Evelyn Shuckburgh (British Red Cross) the Standing Commission of the International Red Cross met in Geneva on 5 May and on 26 October.

It had been directed by the Twenty-third International Red Cross Conference (Bucharest, 1977), *inter alia*, to decide upon the place and date of the Twenty-fourth International Conference. The National Societies prepared to host the Conference had been invited to make their offers before 30 April 1978.

The Standing Commission gratefully accepted the offer from the Philippines National Red Cross and decided that the Twenty-fourth International Red Cross Conference would be held in Manila in 1981.

#### WORKING GROUP ON THE EMBLEM

On the occasion of the Twenty-third International Red Cross Conference, the Council of Delegates formed a working group to study all questions relating to the emblem and to report to the Twenty-fourth International Red Cross Conference; its recommendations were to be adopted by consensus.

The working group, comprising representatives of the ICRC, the League, the Henry Dunant Institute and nine National Societies (Iran, Malaysia, Niger, Spain, Switzerland, Syria, Turkey, USA and USSR) met twice in 1978, once on 1 May and again on 23 October. These meetings permitted useful exchanges of views on the various possible solutions to the question of unity of the emblem.

To continue its study and carry to completion the extensive consultations envisaged by the Council of Delegates, the working group decided to hold two meetings annually, to coincide with the League Executive Council's meetings.

#### COMMISSION ON THE RED CROSS AND PEACE

The 1977 Council of Delegates had also decided to set up a commission to encourage the implementation of the "Programme of Action of the Red Cross as a Factor of Peace", drawn up two years previously at Belgrade at the World Red Cross Conference on Peace.

This commission, comprising representatives of twelve National Societies,\* the ICRC, the League and the Henry Dunant Institute (IHD) first met on 25 October at ICRC headquarters. Chaired by Mr. Harald Huber, Vice-President of the ICRC, it took note of reports from several Societies, the League, the ICRC and the IHD. It also drew up a programme of studies on various Red Cross contributions to peace.

\* Australia, Canada, Egypt, El Salvador, France, German Democratic Republic, Indonesia, Mauritania, Philippines, Senegal, Yugoslavia and Zaire.

## RE-APPRAISAL OF THE ROLE OF THE RED CROSS

The principal theme of the Twenty-third International Red Cross Conference was the study on the Re-appraisal of the Role of the Red Cross, drawn up by Mr. D. Tansley and entitled "*An Agenda for Red Cross*" (Geneva, July 1975). After expressing its appreciation to Mr. Tansley and noting with satisfaction that the ICRC, the League and the National Societies had given consideration to the comments and suggestions in the study, the International Conference, in its Resolution No. II, urged the ICRC and League to examine further those questions requiring additional study in order to "present them for consideration at appropriate Red Cross meetings and to report to the competent bodies on the actions taken and progress achieved".

Pursuant to that resolution, the ICRC and the League drew up a list of such questions, showing the work achieved or under way from the time when the document entitled *The ICRC, the League and the Tansley Report*—in which the two institutions had answered some of Mr. Tansley's ideas and suggestions—was submitted to the International Conference. The list also indicated which of those questions still required study. They will be examined jointly by the ICRC and the League in the years ahead.

## FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE MEDAL

On 23 August 1978 the ICRC sent National Societies a circular and questionnaire, inviting them to submit, by 1 March 1979, nominations for the Twenty-seventh Award of the Florence Nightingale Medal, to take place in May 1979.

## SHŌKEN FUND

The Joint Commission responsible for distributing the income from the Empress Shōken Fund—made up of representatives of the League and the ICRC—met at the League headquarters in Geneva on 5 April 1978 in the presence of Mr. Akitane Kiuchi, chargé d'affaires ad interim of the Permanent Delegation of Japan to International Organizations in Geneva. It nominated the seven beneficiaries of the 57th distribution, namely, the National Societies of Colombia, Egypt, Fiji, Lebanon, Liberia, Sudan and Trinity and Tobago.

The funds distributed—totalling 151,000 Swiss francs—will enable these Societies to improve their equipment and their activities in training, blood transfusion, disaster relief and medico-social action.

The Empress Shōken Fund was set up in 1912 with a gift from Her Imperial Majesty of Japan, with a view to financing the humanitarian activities of National Societies, mainly in peacetime. Since then, the Fund has received several gifts from the Japanese Imperial Family, the Japanese Government and the Japanese Red Cross.

## RELATIONS WITH THE HENRY DUNANT INSTITUTE

### Introductory seminar to the international activities of the Red Cross

The ICRC assisted by providing lecturers at the second introductory seminar to the international activities of the Red

Cross, organized by the Henry Dunant Institute in Geneva from 16 to 24 May 1978. Representatives from the National Societies of the following twenty countries took part in the seminar: Belgium, Benin, Cameroon, Congo, France, Germany (Federal Republic of), Haiti, Italy, Morocco, Netherlands, Niger, Poland, Senegal, Spain, Switzerland, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Upper Volta and Yugoslavia. Agenda items included: historical development of the Red Cross, the structure of the movement, co-operation between the international Red Cross institutions, relief, the League today and tomorrow, international humanitarian law, the ICRC today, National Society co-operation with the international Red Cross organizations, protection and assistance, and dissemination of Red Cross principles and of international humanitarian law. The League was also represented and provided several lecturers.

## Miscellaneous matters

### THE RED CROSS AND PEACE

#### Round Table of Institutions Awarded the Nobel Peace Prize

Among the events organized in Geneva on the occasion of the 150th anniversary of the birth of Henry Dunant, founder of the Red Cross and the first to be awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1901, was a Round Table meeting of institutions which had been awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. The Round Table, convened by the ICRC, jointly with the League, was chaired by Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan, former United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. It took place on 27 and 28 April 1978 at the headquarters of the International Labour Organization and was attended by the nine institutions which had been awarded the Nobel Peace Prize: the Institute of International Law (1904), the International Peace Bureau (1910), the Friends Service Council (1947), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (1954), the United Nations Children's Fund (1965), the International Labour Organisation (1969), Amnesty International (1977), the League of Red Cross Societies (1963) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (1917, 1944 and 1963). Three journalists, representing three major trends of world public opinion also attended, namely, Mr. Vikenti Matveev (USSR), Mr. Pierre Salinger (USA) and Mr. Tarzie Vittachi (Sri Lanka).

The aims of the Round Table were to encourage an exchange of opinions on the scope of the nine institutions' contributions to peace in the light of contemporary realities, and to remind the world of Henry Dunant's efforts for peace.

The Round Table first met in private session. Fruitful exchanges of views led to the adoption of two texts: first, the representatives agreed on characteristics common to their nine institutions concerning the problem of peace; second, they drew up an appeal for peace addressed to the international community, more particularly to governments and to intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations. They also decided unanimously to give their support to the appeal which the ICRC

planned to send to the extraordinary session of the United Nations on disarmament (see below). They also agreed to meet again informally for further exchanges of views.

After the private session which lasted for two days, the Round Table met in public session to present its conclusions to the public and the press and to continue their discussions.

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The representatives of the institutions who took part in the Round Table met again, as agreed, on 2 October at the ICRC. They approved the report on the work of the Round Table and decided that the widest possible distribution should be given to it and, likewise, to the appeal for peace addressed to the international community. The report, translated into several languages, was expected to come off the press in the early part of 1979.

The participants also agreed to meet again in 1979 to assess the impact of the report and the appeal. It was also planned to study, in the course of that meeting, the question of enlightening young people on peace problems, and to develop certain ideas on this subject which had emerged from the Round Table, with particular emphasis on associating Unesco in the undertaking.

## THE ICRC AND DISARMAMENT

### Extraordinary session of the United Nations General Assembly on disarmament

On the occasion of the extraordinary session of the United Nations General Assembly on disarmament, held in New York from 23 May to 28 June 1978, the ICRC was anxious that its voice should be heard on this vital question. It therefore sent, on 23 May, an appeal to the governments attending the extraordinary session. A substantial extract from the appeal is quoted below:

*On 5 September 1945, less than a month after the nuclear bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the ICRC publicly expressed its extreme concern at this development. It must be recognized unfortunately that, despite the valiant efforts of men of good will, the production of new weapons has continued at an ever-greater pace, both in quantity and in destructive efficiency. The first to be affected by this development of armaments are the ever-increasing numbers of civilians who either are the victims of weapons of indiscriminate effects or live in constant threat of mass destruction.*

*The ICRC, therefore, feels that it is now time to again proclaim its consternation at the stockpiling of weapons capable of destroying all life on earth and express its profound dismay at the senseless waste caused by the arms race and by the large-scale delivery of weapons all over the globe, in most parts of which the inhabitants even today live in dire poverty.*

*The ICRC has seen at first-hand, in countless wars, the atrocious suffering caused to millions of victims whom it has sought to protect and aid with the assistance of all the forces which the Red Cross could command. It therefore appeals to the United Nations General Assembly to make this special session the beginning of new hope for the international com-*

*munity. It solemnly calls on the governments taking part to do everything in their power to create an atmosphere of confidence and security which favour the search for solutions to the deadlock facing mankind, so that they might rise above their own interests and reach agreement on disarmament. The Red Cross is aware that without genuine disarmament measures, the way will never be found to its ideal of universal brotherhood, an ideal shared by all peoples throughout the world, who look to the United Nations General Assembly with hope as much as with anxiety.*

The ICRC delegate to international organizations attended the proceedings of the extraordinary session as an observer.

## FOUNDING OF AN ISLAMIC ORGANIZATION FOR RELIEF TO VICTIMS OF NATURAL DISASTERS AND WARS

By letter dated 3 November 1977 the Secretary General of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) informed the ICRC and the League of a decision by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the member countries at their eighth meeting (Tripoli, May, 1977) to set up an "International Islamic Red Crescent Organisation" for the relief of victims of natural disasters and of armed conflicts.

In reply, the ICRC and the League communicated to the Secretary-General of the Islamic Conference that they could not but welcome such reinforcement of international solidarity in the fight against human suffering of all kinds. In addition, they drew attention to the provisions of the First and Fourth Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 which restricted the use of the Red Cross, Red Crescent and Red Lion and Sun emblems to military medical services, hospitals and National Societies of the countries signatories to those Conventions, which included almost all the members of the Islamic Conference. While offering their practical co-operation, the ICRC and the League recommended that the future relief organization's name should not include the words "Red Crescent".

The OIC Secretary-General brought these considerations to the notice of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs concerned who, at their ninth conference in Dakar in April 1978, decided to direct the representatives of the National Societies of the OIC member States to put forward proposals for the name, objectives and structure of the future organization.

A meeting for that purpose was convened in Benghazi from 30 September to 2 October. The ICRC and the League were invited to participate with observer status. After discussion, various proposals were put forward, some of which took no account of the recommendations made earlier by the two international Red Cross institutions. The divergent views which thus came to the surface about the name to be given to the future Islamic organization led the ICRC and the League to confirm and specify more clearly their attitude in a memorandum sent on 5 December 1978 to the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the 42 member countries of the OIC. In addition, representatives of the ICRC and League spoke on the subject with members of several of the governments concerned and with the OIC General Secretariat in Jeddah.