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RELATIONS WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Through its International Organizations Division, the ICRC continued to maintain and develop its contact with the United Nations Organization, both in New York and Geneva, and with some specialized institutions whose activities are more particularly concerned with humanitarian issues.

ICRC observers again attended the annual sessions of:

- the Commission on Human Rights;
- the Sub-Commission to combat discrimination and for the protection of minorities;
- the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC);
- the World Health Assembly;
- the International Labour Conference;
- the International Law Commission;
- the Executive Committee of the High Commissioner for Refugees;
- the United Nations General Assembly.

These meetings provide constant opportunity to maintain contact with the delegations from member countries and with the representatives of the secretariats of these various organizations and institutions on questions of common interest concerning operational activities, human rights problems and the diverse aspects of international humanitarian law.

Although it did not officially participate in the International Conference on the Question of Palestine, which was held in Geneva from 29 August to 7 September, the ICRC observed the work of the Conference at the special invitation of the Secretary-General.

As regards operational activities, contact was maintained, particularly by the ICRC delegate to the international organizations in New York, with the donor countries for the activities being carried out in Kampuchea and Thailand, whilst activities in favour of the victims of the Lebanon conflict were also discussed with UNRWA and other institutions.

Relations were continued with the Intergovernmental Committee for Migration (ICM); for example, the ICRC took part in the sixth Seminar on the Adaptation and Integration of Immigrants, which took place in Geneva in April, and in the forty-ninth session of the ICM Executive Council in December.

Regional contacts were also maintained. The activities of the Council of Europe in the field of human rights were observed in Strasbourg; furthermore, during a visit to Geneva in May, the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Demography was received at ICRC headquarters.

The delegate to the international organizations in New York maintained contact with the Organization of American States in Washington. To a lesser extent, the ICRC was in contact with senior representatives of the Organization of African Unity; it attended the preparatory meetings, held in March at Arusha, Tanzania, and in Geneva in December, for the Second International Conference on assistance to refugees in Africa.

The ICRC was also present as an observer at the seventh summit meeting of non-aligned countries, held in March in New Delhi.

The ICRC maintained contact with numerous non-governmental organizations. Especially worthy of note is its participation as an observer at the Conference organized by these organizations in December, in Geneva, on the occasion of the thirty-fifth anniversary of the proclamation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Finally, the ICRC established close links with the Independent Commission on International Humanitarian Issues, formed in Geneva in July, and presided over by Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan and Prince Hassan of Jordan. Accompanied by the Director for Operational Activities and the Head of the International Organizations Division, President Hay spoke to the Commission, which met in New York in November, on questions concerning the application of international humanitarian law.

**GENERAL
AFFAIRS**

