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Co-operation within the International Red Cross

COMPONENTS OF THE MOVEMENT

NATIONAL SOCIETIES

Recognition of new National Societies

On the proposal of the joint ICRC-League Commission on National Society Statutes and having ascertained that these Societies fulfilled all the relevant conditions, the ICRC announced formal recognition of the Red Cross of Cape Verde on 14 March and, on 30 October, that of the São Tomé and Príncipe Red Cross. The ICRC accredited these new National Societies to other members of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement by circular letter on 15 April and 30 October respectively. This recognition brought the number of member Societies to 137.

Founded on 19 July 1975, the Red Cross of Cape Verde was recognized by its government in 1984 as the sole Red Cross Society in the country and as a voluntary first-aid association, auxiliary to the authorities.

The São Tomé and Príncipe Red Cross, founded on 20 January 1976, was similarly recognized by its government on 1 August 1985.

Development of National Societies

In 1981, the ICRC and the League jointly determined the areas in which the ICRC could contribute to the development of National Societies. The ICRC's programme within the League's overall Strategy for the Eighties was approved by the second session of the General Assembly of the League and by the Twenty-fourth International Conference of the Red Cross (Resolution No. XXV). Apart from strengthening the operational capacity of National Societies to meet certain emergency situations (armed conflicts), the ICRC's areas are as follows:

- technical and legal assistance in the founding or re-organization of National Societies;
- promotion and support of National Society projects concerning their programmes to disseminate knowledge of international humanitarian law and the principles and ideals of the Red Cross, or their information services;
- assistance in the implementation of the provisions of the

- Geneva Conventions and, in particular, the rules in force on the use of the Red Cross and Red Crescent emblem;
- training of National Society officials for the tasks incumbent on them in the event of armed conflict;
- training of National Society delegates and staff called on to carry out missions for the ICRC or the League.

In 1985, as in previous years, the ICRC continued its efforts to strengthen the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement as a whole, by contributing in its specific areas to the development of the National Societies. Thus the ICRC concluded co-operation agreements with certain National Societies (mainly in Africa and Central America) for the implementation of information and dissemination programmes. Furthermore, it associated itself with various consortia of the League in Africa (Benin, Togo, Ghana) to intensify and co-ordinate contributions to the development of Societies wishing to strengthen their structure and enlarge their field of activities.

During the year under review the ICRC strengthened its structure at headquarters. The regional delegates and personnel in charge of co-operation in Geneva made several visits to National Societies to meet their leaders, but also to participate in the activities of the National Societies (*these activities are described in the chapters on the respective countries in "Action in the Field"*). They took part in regional meetings or seminars.

The ICRC Central Tracing Agency at the beginning of the year published a *Guide for National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies*. The principles of action and the working procedures explained therein aim to strengthen the cohesion between the various components of the Movement in their activities on behalf of the members of dispersed families: exchange of family messages, the tracing of persons who are missing or whose relatives are without news, and family reunification. Refugees and displaced persons are often in need of such activities on their behalf and will therefore benefit by progress made in this area.

Participation in meetings of National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

In 1985 the ICRC took part in the following meetings and seminars (*seminars more specifically relating to dissemination are reported in the chapter on "Dissemination of International Humanitarian Law and of the Principles and Ideals of the Red Cross", and under the countries concerned in "Action in the Field"*).

Africa

— On 10 October the Third General Assembly of the ACROFA (Association of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies of French-speaking Africa) was held in Cotonou, Benin. The ICRC was represented at this meeting by the delegate-general for Africa and the head of the Co-operation-Dissemination Division.

— The same envoys also represented the ICRC at the Pan-African Conference held in Cotonou, Benin, from 11 to 14 October (topics: drought, development of National Societies, and protection and dissemination activities).

Latin America

— The President of the ICRC, the Director for Operational Activities and the delegate-general for Latin America took part in the meeting of the Inter-American Regional Committee (CORI) in San Salvador.

— The same ICRC representatives participated in the meeting of Presidents and in technical seminars of sub-region I (Central and North America) held in San Salvador from 24 to 27 April.

Asia

— From 4 to 9 February the ICRC, represented by Mr. Jäckli as Vice-President of the ICRC, the delegate-general for Asia and the Pacific and the head of the Information Department, took part in the Third Regional Conference of the National Societies of Asia and the Pacific, which was held in Melbourne.

— The Sixth Conference of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies of ASEAN member countries was held in Singapore from 24 to 26 June. The ICRC was represented by Mr. Huber, honorary member of the Committee and head of the Information Department.

Europe

— Mr. Aubert, Vice-President of the ICRC, accompanied by the head of the Information Department, represented the ICRC at the Eleventh Festival of Red Cross and Health Films which took place in Varna (Bulgaria) from 7 to 15 June (an account of this meeting appears in No. 247 (July-August 1985) of the *International Review of the Red Cross*).

— From 24 to 28 June, the ICRC, represented by Mr. Huguenin, a member of the Committee and by the delegate-general for Europe and North America, took part in the Sixth Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies of the Balkan countries which was held in Ohrid (Yugoslavia).

— As part of the training programme for National Society personnel, the head of the Medical Division visited the National Societies of Denmark and Finland (18 to 20 March), and of Sweden and Norway (12 to 15 April). He presented training material to the doctors and nurses seconded to carry out ICRC missions.

— The head of the National Societies and Principles Division, in conjunction with a representative of the League, took part in two training courses for officials of Arab National Societies organized by the Turkish Red Crescent Society in Istanbul, from 1 to 28 July and from 5 to 31 August respectively.

Middle East

— The Sixteenth Conference of the Arab Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies was held in Tunis from 25 to 28 March. The ICRC was represented by its President and the delegate-general for the Middle East and North Africa. (A review of this Conference appears in No. 246 (May-June 1985) of the *International Review of the Red Cross*).

Meeting between the National Societies and the ICRC

As in previous years, the ICRC organized an information meeting, on 17 April 1985, for representatives of National Societies who were in Geneva to attend the League Executive Council: 115 persons representing 65 National Societies attended a presentation of ICRC activities followed by discussion.

Meeting of National Societies of Donor Countries

An information meeting on ICRC special emergency relief operations was organized on 11 and 12 April at headquarters, which brought together 16 persons representing 15 National Societies and three representatives of the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. Discussions covered food and medical relief work in Africa, Central America, Asia and the Middle East.

Empress Shôken Fund

The Joint Commission for distributing the income from the Empress Shôken Fund met on 29 March 1985 under the chairmanship of Mr. Aubert, Vice-President of the Inter-

national Committee of the Red Cross, in the presence of Mr. Kazu Chiba, the Japanese Ambassador.

The Empress Shōken Fund was created in 1912 by a gift from Her Imperial Majesty of Japan to promote the development of humanitarian activities by National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. Since then, the Fund has received several gifts from the Japanese Imperial family, the Japanese Government and the Japanese Red Cross. In 1985, its capital amounted to more than four million Swiss francs.

The revenues distributed in 1985 will enable 10 National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in Latin America, the Middle East, Africa and Asia to develop their activities in the fields of relief, health, social assistance, blood transfusions and first aid. The National Societies of the following countries were beneficiaries in 1985: Benin, Egypt, Honduras, Malawi, Malaysia, Mauritius, Morocco, Niger, Papua-New Guinea and Paraguay.

Florence Nightingale Medal

After examining the applications submitted by the National Societies, the ICRC on 12 May awarded the Florence Nightingale Medal to 38 nurses and volunteer workers of 20 National Societies. It was the 30th time the medal had been awarded.

The Florence Nightingale medal, awarded every two years, honours qualified nurses and voluntary aids who are active members or regular helpers of a National Society or of an affiliated medical institution, for having shown exceptional courage and devotion, in time of war or peace, to wounded, sick or disabled persons or those whose health is threatened. Since 1981, the medal has also been awarded in honour of exceptional services rendered in the area of preventive medicine (the recipients' names were published in the *International Review of the Red Cross*, No. 247 of July-August 1985).

LEAGUE OF RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT SOCIETIES

Joint League-ICRC working group on the revision of the Statutes of the International Red Cross

In 1985, the joint League-ICRC working group on the revision of the Statutes of the International Red Cross, during the meetings mentioned below, established a draft text which—adopted by the Assembly of the ICRC and the General Assembly of the League in October—will be submitted for approval to the International Conference of the Red Cross in 1986.

From 6 to 8 March the drafting committee of the joint working group, co-chaired by Mrs. Spiljak, Vice-President of

the League, and by Mr. Moreillon, ICRC Director for General Affairs, examined the reactions of the National Societies to the draft Statutes and Rules of Procedure drawn up in Jakarta from 26 November to 6 December 1984.

Joint ICRC-League Commission on National Society Statutes

The Joint ICRC-League Commission on National Society Statutes met eight times in 1985, on 23 January, 26 March, 30 April, 29 May, 25 July, 25 September, 14 November and 17 December, under the chairmanship of Mr. Gaillard of the ICRC.

In 1973, the Twenty-second International Conference of the Red Cross had asked the National Societies to keep the ICRC and the League regularly informed of any changes they wished to make in their statutes on points relating to the conditions for recognition by the ICRC or admission to the League and to take into account any comments made by these two institutions (Resolution VI). The Joint ICRC-League Commission on National Society Statutes was created in application of this resolution and confirmed in its functions by the Twenty-fourth International Red Cross Conference in 1981 (Resolution XX).

In 1985, the Commission examined draft amendments to their statutes submitted by eleven National Societies and the cases of 23 National Societies in the process of recognition. Two of them, the Red Cross Societies of Cape Verde and of São Tomé and Príncipe were formally recognized in 1985 (see paragraph devoted to the recognition of new National Societies). The Commission also studied the case of two National Societies confronted with internal problems.

Joint ICRC-League meetings

Apart from the regular and permanent contacts which they maintain, the representatives of the ICRC and the League twice met formally in 1985. On 22 March, the participants generally reviewed the co-operation between the two institutions and the consortium concept for the development of National Societies. The agenda of the meeting on 26 August was mainly concerned with the examination of first draft lists of members and observers to attend the Twenty-fifth International Conference of the Red Cross.

ORGANS OF THE MOVEMENT

COUNCIL OF DELEGATES

The Council of Delegates, which assembles the three components of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement

(National Societies, ICRC and League) met in Geneva on 25 October 1985.

After the meeting had been opened by Dr. Abu-Goura, President of the Jordan National Red Crescent Society, the President of the ICRC was elected Chairman of the Council and the President of the League was elected Vice-Chairman. In his opening speech, Dr. Abu-Goura emphasized the problem of lack of respect for international humanitarian law and pleaded in favour of ratification of the Additional Protocols and of the Geneva Conventions.

The Council of Delegates had a lively debate on the question of peace (see paragraph on "Commission on the Red Cross and Peace"), and on the regulations for the use of the emblem by National Societies. In the light of the divergent views expressed on this subject, the ICRC proposed that the National Societies which so wished should meet in Geneva during the April 1986 session of the League Executive Council, in order to have a last exchange of views on the draft to be submitted to the International Conference of the Red Cross.

The Council of Delegates also adopted a resolution presented by nineteen National Societies on the role of the latter in the ratification by States of the Additional Protocols. This resolution recalls that the International Conference of the Red Cross will be called upon to evaluate the state of ratification of, and accessions to, the Additional Protocols, and expresses the Council's hope that all the States which intend to ratify the Additional Protocols will do so before the 1986 Conference. To this end, it appeals for the support of international organizations and encourages the ICRC to continue its work for the accession of most of the States to the Additional Protocols before 1986.

The importance to National Societies of having a licence to operate a national emergency radiocommunications network was recalled in order to give concrete follow-up to the resolution adopted by the Council in 1983 on the use of radiocommunication by Red Cross organizations.

The report on the activity of the Henry Dunant Institute gave its president, Mr. Buensod, an opportunity to emphasize again the importance of this centre as a forum of reflexion at the disposal of all the components of the Movement, and to express the wish that they should make increased use of its services.

The Council awarded the Henry Dunant medal to two recipients in 1985 (see paragraph on "Standing Commission").

Commission on the Red Cross and Peace

The Commission on the Red Cross and Peace was created in 1977 by the Council of Delegates, to encourage the implementation of the "Action Programme of the Red Cross as a Factor of Peace" drawn up at the World Red Cross and Red Crescent Conference on Peace in 1975 and adopted in Bucharest in 1977. Chaired by Mr. Huber, honorary member of the ICRC, the Commission is composed of representatives of the

ICRC, the League, the Henry Dunant Institute and twelve National Societies (Australia, Canada, Egypt, El Salvador, France, Indonesia, Mauritania, the Philippines, the Democratic Republic of Germany, Senegal, Yugoslavia and Zaire).

In 1985 the Commission held two meetings, on 15 April and 17 October, which were mainly dedicated to an examination of its future, including the finalization of proposals concerning its terms of reference, composition, duration and proceedings. On completion of its work the Commission adopted by consensus a draft resolution which was submitted for the approval of the Council of Delegates on 25 October.

The Commission was agreed on the necessity of continuing its general reflexion on peace (study of the implementation of the Programme of Action of the Red Cross as a Factor of Peace and the final document of the Aaland Conference; study of the question of the law in and of neutrality, etc.) and to continue to study the correlation between the Movement's contribution to a true peace and respect for human rights. A period of four years was considered necessary to complete such reflexion. The Commission will become the "Commission on the Red Cross, the Red Crescent and Peace" and the number of members will remain the same. However, six new member National Societies will be elected in 1986 to replace six others, to be designated by mutual agreement. Decisions will continue to be taken by consensus and the Commission will remain under the chairmanship of the ICRC.

The draft resolution mentioned above was adopted by consensus by the Council of Delegates which, in addition, and at the suggestion of Dr. Abu-Goura, President of the Jordan National Red Crescent Society, referred a draft resolution on the institution of a World Peace Day for re-examination to the Commission on the Red Cross, the Red Crescent and Peace. Furthermore, the Council of Delegates entrusted the Commission with the role of co-ordinator, between the three components of the Movement, for revival of the Plan of Action against Racism and Racial Discrimination, adopted in 1973 at Tehran by the Council of Delegates and the Twenty-second International Conference of the Red Cross.

STANDING COMMISSION

In 1985, the Standing Commission of the International Red Cross met three times, once in special session and twice in ordinary session. The Commission is composed of two representatives of the ICRC, two representatives of the League, and five members elected by the International Conference of the Red Cross.

The special session of the Standing Commission was held in Amman on 14 January, following a convocation by the President, Dr. Ahmed Abu-Goura, President of the Jordan National Red Crescent Society, and dealt mainly with the situation regarding the application of the Geneva Conventions. At the close of this special session, the Commission requested the Chairman of the Standing Commission and the Presidents of the League and the ICRC to address a note to each State party to the Geneva Convention inviting it to

respect and to ensure respect for international humanitarian law and to enable the ICRC to carry out its mandate.

During the two ordinary sessions of 17 April and 16 October the Standing Commission supervised the preparatory work for the Twenty-fifth International Conference of the Red Cross, which will deal particularly with the question of respect for and the development of international humanitarian law. It examined the texts resulting from the revision of the Statutes of the International Red Cross and of the Rules of Procedure of the International Conference of the Red Cross.

At its April session, the Standing Commission studied, on the same day, the nominations submitted for the Henry Dunant Medal and designated two recipients: Mrs. Olga Milosevic of the Red Cross of Yugoslavia and Mr. Tom Sloper of the Brazilian Red Cross. The Henry Dunant Medal, which has been awarded every two years since 1969, rewards

outstanding services and acts of great devotion to the Red Cross cause, mainly on the international level.

HENRY DUNANT INSTITUTE

The ICRC is a member of the Henry Dunant Institute, as are the League and the Swiss Red Cross. It is associated with some of the studies undertaken by the Institute, particularly in the area of international humanitarian law; it takes part in various courses and seminars organized by the Institute.

In 1985, the ICRC participated in the tenth French-language introductory course on the international activities of the Red Cross (28 May to 7 June), which dealt with the Red Cross and assistance to refugees. It also took part in a workshop on refugees and asylum-seekers (24 to 27 September).