

Zeitschrift: Annual report / International Committee of the Red Cross
Herausgeber: International Committee of the Red Cross
Band: - (1987)

Rubrik: Co-operation within the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement

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: 08.02.2026

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

Co-operation within the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement

Organs of the Movement

COUNCIL OF DELEGATES

The Council of Delegates, which is composed of representatives of the National Societies, the ICRC and the League, met in Rio de Janeiro on 27 October 1987, with Mr. Cornelio Sommaruga, President of the ICRC, taking the chair.

The Council discussed the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement's contribution to peace (see also below: "Commission on the Red Cross, Red Crescent and Peace") and adopted by consensus four resolutions on the subject:

- In Resolution 1, the Council of Delegates established a "Red Cross and Red Crescent Prize for Peace and Humanity", to be awarded by the Standing Commission to National Societies or individuals who, through the Movement, have made an active contribution to a more peaceful world.
- It endorsed the principle of launching a worldwide campaign for protection of war victims and enjoined the components of the Movement to work for its execution (Resolution 2).
- Stressing the disproportion between expenditure on armaments and the amounts earmarked for development, the Council stated that the Movement would be willing to make effective use of any funds that States might be prepared to make available through limiting expenditure on armaments, by allocating such funds to National Society development projects (Resolution 3, "Peace, disarmament and development");
- Finally, in Resolution 4, the Council invited the Movement to continue and extend its activities for the dissemination of international humanitarian law and the Fundamental Principles; and it encouraged the Commission on the Red Cross, Red Crescent and Peace to promote the development of ways and means of spreading

knowledge and understanding of the Movement's role in promoting peace.

The Council of Delegates adopted by consensus a draft of new Regulations on the Use of the Emblem by National Societies, a revised version of the 1965 Regulations; the new Regulations take account, among other matters, of the Additional Protocols to the Geneva Conventions adopted in 1977. They will be submitted to the next International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, but National Societies are invited to respect them immediately.

The Council of Delegates also adopted a resolution on the implementation of the Geneva Conventions, which is at the same time intended to encourage the ICRC in its efforts to this end.

It took note of a joint report by the ICRC and the League on the Movement's information policy, a document that takes up the recommendations of the workshop on information and public relations held in Varna (Bulgaria) in June (see below, under "Participation in meetings of National Societies"). The Council endorsed the Varna recommendations and invited the ICRC and the League to develop a series of guidelines, in consultation with the National Societies, for the new information policy.

The Council endorsed the proposals of the ICRC and the League for the commemoration of the 125th anniversary of the Movement.

Finally, the Council of Delegates awarded the Henry Dunant Medal to the eight 1987 recipients (see under "Standing Commission").

An account of the proceedings and the text of the resolutions of the Council of Delegates was published in the November-December 1987 issue of the International Review of the Red Cross.

Commission on the Red Cross, Red Crescent and Peace

The Commission on the Red Cross, Red Crescent and Peace, which was set up by the Council of Delegates in 1977, met twice in 1987 under the chairmanship of Mr. Alexandre Hay. Its 22nd meeting was held in Geneva on

6 April and its 23rd meeting in Rio de Janeiro on 17 and 18 November. It should be recalled that the composition of the Commission was altered by the Council of Delegates in 1986 and that, in addition to representatives of the ICRC, the League, the Henry Dunant Institute, the National Societies of Yugoslavia and, alternatively, Sweden and Finland (as the Societies that organized the two World Red Cross and Red Crescent Conferences on Peace, in Belgrade in 1975 and in Aaland and Stockholm in 1984), the Commission now has members from the National Societies of the following countries: Australia, Benin, Brazil, Colombia, Egypt, Ethiopia, France, the German Democratic Republic, Indonesia, Jordan, Mauritania and the Yemen Arab Republic.

During its deliberations, the Commission examined the Movement's contribution to respect for human rights (see below, under "Group of Experts on Human Rights"), the possible establishment of a World Red Cross and Red Crescent Peace Day, and the replies of National Societies relating to implementation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Plan of Action against Racism and Racial Discrimination, adopted in 1973. It also studied new proposals: the establishment of a Red Cross and Red Crescent Peace Prize, the relationship between disarmament, development and peace, the launching of a worldwide campaign to strengthen protection for war victims, information and dissemination of international humanitarian law as a contribution to peace, and the convening of a third World Peace Conference. With regard to the latter, the Commission considered that effect should first be given to the Belgrade Programme of Action, the conclusions of the Aaland Conference and the resolutions on peace passed by the Twenty-fifth International Conference of the Red Cross; the other new proposals were the subject of recommendations to the Council of Delegates, which approved them.

Group of Experts on Human Rights

Established in April by the Commission on the Red Cross, Red Crescent and Peace to give effect to Decision No. 1 of the 1985 Council of Delegates (operative paragraph 6b), the Group of Experts on Human Rights held its first meeting in Geneva on 23 and 24 June under the chairmanship of Mr. Diego Uribe Vargas (Colombia).

The group includes representatives of the ICRC, the League, the National Societies of Algeria, Colombia, Denmark, Ethiopia, France, Indonesia, Sweden, the United States, the USSR, and Yugoslavia. Its terms of reference are to study the contribution of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement to respect for human rights and the correlation between this and the Move-

ment's contribution to peace. It began its work by examining, from the standpoint of the Movement, the two United Nations Covenants (the Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Covenant on Civil and Political Rights).

In November, the working group submitted an interim report to the Commission on the Red Cross, Red Crescent and Peace, and the Commission approved a proposal to send out questionnaires to the National Societies to ask them which of their activities might be considered as contributing to respect for different human rights.

STANDING COMMISSION

In 1986 the Standing Commission of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, which 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, held two ordinary sessions, meeting in Geneva on 8 April and later in Rio de Janeiro between 19 and 23 November under the chairmanship of Dr. Ahmad Abu-Goura, President of the Jordanian Red Crescent Society.

The Standing Commission prepared the agenda and meeting of the Council of Delegates of 27 November. It amended its own rules to conform with the new Statutes of the Movement adopted by the Twenty-fifth International Conference of the Red Cross. It began a consideration of the action to be taken on decisions of that Conference (under the new Statutes, the Standing Commission must promote the implementation of resolutions of the International Conferences).

Finally, the Commission considered the candidates for award of the Henry Dunant Medal. This medal, which has been awarded every two years since 1969, honours outstanding services and acts of great devotion to the cause of the Red Cross, mainly at the international level. In 1987, the medal was awarded to eight individuals: Justice J.A. Adefarasin of Nigeria, former President of the League; Mr. Juan José Vega Aguiar, former chief of the Cuban Red Cross Tracing Services; Mrs. Mary-Josée Burnier, ICRC nurse; Princess Gina of Liechtenstein, former President of the National Society; Dr. Anton Schlögel, former Secretary General of the German Red Cross in the Federal Republic of Germany; Mr. Kai Waras, former Secretary General of the Finnish Red Cross; and, posthumously, to Mr. Enrique de la Mata Gorostizaga, late President of the League and Mr. Onni Niskanen, former Secretary General of the Ethiopian Red Cross.

Components of the Movement

NATIONAL SOCIETIES

Dialogue with the National Societies

As part of its efforts to strengthen links with the National Societies, in 1986 the ICRC began a series of missions to meet their leaders and hold detailed discussions on what the Societies expected of the ICRC and vice versa (cf. Annual Report 1986, p. 99). Further such missions were carried out in 1987 by members of the Committee; Mr. Rudolf Jäckli travelled to Bangladesh, Malaysia, Japan, Australia, New Zealand and Thailand (February-March); Mr. Maurice Aubert visited Belgium on 19 and 20 March; and Mr. Hans Haug visited the Federal Republic of Germany on 1 and 2 July. In addition, on 9 and 10 November the ICRC convened a working meeting of the National Societies of Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden, under the chairmanship of Mr. Jäckli, in Morges, Switzerland.

Visits by the outgoing and incoming Presidents provided opportunities for many discussions with leaders of National Societies. Thus Mr. Alexandre Hay, usually accompanied by Mr. Sommaruga, the President-elect, visited Saudi Arabia (February), Bahrain, Qatar, Kuwait and Italy (March), and France, Turkey and the USSR (April). Mr. Sommaruga, in his capacity as member of the Committee, went to Angola (February), Pakistan (March) and El Salvador and Costa Rica (April) then, as President of the ICRC, to the United Kingdom (June), the Federal Republic of Germany (September) and Japan (December) (see also under the relevant country heading, in the section "Action in the field").

Recognition of a new National Society

On the recommendation of the Joint ICRC/League Commission on National Society Statutes, the ICRC announced the formal recognition of the Grenada Red Cross on 12 March. In conformity with its statutory mandate, the ICRC informed all National Societies and the League of this recognition, which brought to 145 the number of member Societies of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

The Grenada Red Cross was founded in 1955 and recognized as a relief society auxiliary to the public authorities by governmental decree in 1981.

Development of National Societies

In 1987 the ICRC continued its efforts to strengthen the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement as a whole by contributing to the development of National Societies in its own spheres of activity. The ICRC programme forms part of the League Strategy for the Eighties approved by the Second Session of the League General Assembly and the Twenty-fourth International Conference of the Red Cross (Resolution XXV), and comprises:

- strengthening the National Societies' operational capacity in, or in preparation for, certain emergency situations (armed conflicts);
- technical and legal assistance in founding or reorganizing National Societies;
- promoting and supporting National Societies' projects for their dissemination programmes and information services (cf. section on Dissemination of international humanitarian law);
- assistance in implementing the Geneva Conventions and especially the regulations on the use of the Red Cross and Red Crescent emblems;
- training officials of National Societies for their responsibilities in the event of armed conflict;
- training delegates and personnel of National Societies appointed to carry out ICRC and League Missions.

Many missions were carried out to National Societies from Geneva or regional delegations of the ICRC, to meet their leaders, obtain information on their activities and their needs or take part in regional or national meetings.

The ICRC played a teaching role in training delegates seconded to the ICRC or the League by the National Societies, during a number of courses in Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, the Federal Republic of Germany, Iceland, Italy, New Zealand and Sweden.

The **Central Tracing Agency** continued to provide training for officials of National Societies, both in Geneva (course held at the end of August for five National Societies; working visits by representatives of the American, Australian and Chinese Red Cross Societies) and abroad. Training courses were held by the CTA in Budapest (see below), Pretoria for the South African Red Cross, and Hyderabad for the Indian Red Cross; the ICRC also took part in National Society seminars on the work of tracing services (in 1987, seminars held by the British Red Cross, the German Red Cross (FRG), the Syrian Red Crescent and the Spanish Red Cross).

Participation in meetings of National Societies

In 1987 the ICRC took part in the following meetings and seminars, some of which it was responsible for organizing:

Africa

□ the extraordinary meeting of ACROFA (Association of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies of French-speaking Africa) in Rio de Janeiro on 19 November;

□ the meeting, sponsored by the Norwegian Red Cross, of National Societies of southern Africa (Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe), as part of a regional "disaster preparedness" project, in Harare from 5 to 8 February, and the meeting of the National Societies that are members of the southern Africa Programme, in Rio de Janeiro in November, on the establishment of an institute for the development of the National Societies of southern Africa.

Latin America

□ Red Cross workshop on refugees and displaced persons in the Americas, in San José (Costa Rica) from 5 to 13 April. The workshop, organized jointly by the League and the ICRC, was attended by representatives of the National Societies of Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru, El Salvador, Suriname, the United States, and UNHCR, ICM and WHO. It was the fourth workshop on the subject (after the one held in Geneva in 1985 for National Societies in Europe and those held in Rwanda and Swaziland in 1986 for the National Societies of Africa). These meetings form part of the follow-up to Resolution XXI of the Twenty-fourth International Conference of the Red Cross ("International Red Cross aid to refugees"), their aim being to help National Societies to be better prepared and capable of bringing assistance to refugees and displaced persons. The fourth workshop gave particular consideration to the role of the ICRC and National Societies in times of conflict and to that of the Central Tracing Agency and the tracing services of National Societies.

□ The Thirteenth Inter-American Conference of the Red Cross in Quito (Ecuador) from 30 June to 3 July. This statutory meeting of the League was organized by the League and the Ecuadorean Red Cross. Some 21 National Societies from North and South America took part, together with observers (the National Societies of Spain

and Finland, the General Secretariat of the Arab National Societies and the ICRC, whose delegation was led by President Sommaruga). The Conference dealt mainly with the problems currently facing the National Societies of the region. The ICRC spoke of its concern over the problem of protecting civilian populations who are the pawns of modern conflicts. On the subject of international humanitarian law, it stressed the importance of the Additional Protocols. In a resolution on the protection of victims of armed conflicts and internal disturbances, the conference called for respect for non-combatants and for the activities of the ICRC and National Societies; it also urged ratification of the Protocols.

□ The meeting of Presidents and technical seminar of sub-region I (Central and North America), in Panama from 30 September to 3 October.

Europe

□ In the regional workshop for the tracing services of National Societies of Europe and North America, in Budapest from 8 to 15 April, organized by the ICRC (Central Tracing Agency). This workshop was attended by 25 National Societies (Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Finland, France, the German Democratic Republic, the Federal Republic of Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, the United States, the USSR and Yugoslavia), the League and the Arolsen International Tracing Service. The workshop was a follow-up to the international technical seminar held by the CTA in Geneva in November 1982, at which it had been agreed to hold regional meetings (see Annual Report 1982, page 77). The participants discussed the activities of tracing services, methods of work, coordination, training of personnel and the establishment of National Information Bureaux.

□ The Twelfth International Festival of Red Cross and Health Films (Varna, Bulgaria) from 31 May to 7 June. The ICRC delegation was led by Mrs. Denise Bindschedler-Robert, Vice-President.

□ The workshop on information and public relations, which was attended by the heads of information services of 29 National Societies, the ICRC and the League, and was held at the same time as the Varna Festival. The workshop provided a framework for a detailed exchange of views on the various problems faced by the Movement in relation to information and public relations; about ten recommendations were adopted with a view to better co-operation in this area; in particular, the League and the ICRC decided to set up a plan of action with developing

National Societies to help them in their efforts to develop their information, dissemination and public relations activities.

□ The Seventh Conference of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies of the Balkan countries, in Bucharest from 13 to 18 July; the ICRC was represented by Professor Daniel Frei, member of the Committee.

□ Meetings of public relations officers of the German-speaking National Societies (Austria, the Federal Republic of Germany, Switzerland) in Vienna on 20 and 21 July, and in Geneva on 13 and 14 October, organized by the Austrian Red Cross and the ICRC respectively.

□ The international seminar on health as a factor of peace and development, which was held in Moscow from 14 to 18 September and was organized by the Alliance of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies of the USSR and the League, with participants from 48 National Societies of the five continents, the ICRC, the Henry Dunant Institute and WHO. The seminar studied the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement's contribution to peace through its activities in the health and development spheres.

□ The Red Cross workshop on the psychological problems of refugees and asylum seekers, in Vitznau (Switzerland), from 6 to 11 October. This workshop, which was organized by the League, was attended by representatives of 12 European National Societies, the International Committee for Migration, UNHCR, non-governmental organizations and various specialists on the subject.

Middle East

□ The Eighteenth Conference of Arab National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, in Doha (Qatar) from 2 to 5 March; the ICRC delegation was led by President Hay. Among other matters, the Conference adopted resolutions encouraging States to ratify the Protocols and combat any misuse of the Red Cross emblem.

(Seminars relating more specifically to the dissemination of international humanitarian law are listed in the section under that heading; those that are national in character are mentioned under the country concerned in the section "Action in the field".)

Meetings between the National Societies and the ICRC

A briefing on special fund-raising activities was held at ICRC headquarters on 1 and 2 April; National Societies

from 17 countries took part (Austria, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, the Federal Republic of Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Japan, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, the United States).

On 8 April, the ICRC held an information session (presentation of the ICRC's main activities, followed by discussions) for representatives of National Societies who had come to Geneva for the League's Executive Council meeting.

Empress Shōken Fund

The Joint League/ICRC Commission for the distribution of income from the Empress Shōken Fund met in Geneva on 17 February and 2 April in the presence of representatives from the Japanese Permanent Mission. The Commission decided to carry out the 66th distribution of income among nine National Societies, those of the Bahamas, Jordan, Pakistan, the Philippines, Saint Lucia, Sao Tome and Principe, Sierra Leone, Suriname and Uruguay, for the purchase of vehicles and relief equipment and training materials for relief workers. *(For details of the distribution, and for the balance and accounts of the Fund at 31 December 1986, see the July-August 1987 issue of the International Review of the Red Cross.)*

The Fund was created in 1912 by a gift from the Empress Shōken of Japan to promote the development of the National Societies' humanitarian activities. Since then the Fund has received several gifts from the Japanese Imperial family, the Japanese Government and the Japanese Red Cross Society.

1987 was the 75th anniversary of the Shōken Fund; to mark the occasion, the Joint Commission published a brochure giving an account of the creation and development of the Fund and recapitulating the distribution of income from it since 1921.

Florence Nightingale Medal

After considering applications submitted by the National Societies, on 12 May the ICRC awarded the Florence Nightingale medal to 46 qualified nurses or volunteer workers from 23 countries. It was the 31st award of the medal. The Florence Nightingale medal, awarded every two years, is intended to honour active members or regular helpers of National Societies or affiliated medical institutions for having shown exceptional courage and devotion, in time of war or peace, to the wounded, sick or disabled or others whose health is threatened. *(The May-June 1987 issue of the International Review of the Red Cross published the names of recipients.)*

LEAGUE OF RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT SOCIETIES

The ICRC and the League are in daily contact, in particular on operational matters. The ICRC was also invited to attend, as an observer, the Nineteenth and Twentieth Sessions of the Executive Council of the League which took place in Geneva in April and in Rio de Janeiro in November, as well as the Sixth Session of the League General Assembly, also held in Rio.

Joint ICRC/League Commission on National Society Statutes

The Joint ICRC/League Commission on National Society Statutes met three times in 1987 (its 64th session on 13 February, its 65th on 28 April and its 66th on 1 October).

In conformity with Resolutions VI and XX respectively of the Twenty-second and Twenty-fourth International Conferences, the Joint Commission examined draft amendments to the Statutes submitted by 12 National Societies. It also considered the cases of 16 National Societies in process of formation. One of them, the Grenada Red Cross, was recognized after a joint mission by the Commission to the country in February.

*
* *

Henry Dunant Institute

The ICRC, the League and the Swiss Red Cross are members of the Henry Dunant Institute, and take it in turns to supply a Chairman for the Institute, for a two-year term of office. Since June 1986 Mr. Maurice Aubert, Vice-President of the ICRC, has been Chairman.

As in the past, the ICRC has provided instructors for

several meetings arranged by the Institute:

- the introductory course to the international activities of the Red Cross, for leaders and volunteers of the Swiss Red Cross (Geneva, 14-15 March);
- the twelfth introductory course to the international activities of the Red Cross, for leaders and volunteers of National Societies (Geneva, 11-22 May); given in Spanish, this course was attended by representatives of 19 National Societies from Latin America, Africa and Europe;
- the fifth programme on public international law and international humanitarian law for American law students, organized in co-operation with the University of Santa Clara, California (Geneva, 10 June-3 July).

*
* *

Medical co-operation

In 1987, the ICRC, WHO and the University of Geneva Faculty of Medicine held, for the second time, a training course entitled "HELP 87" ("Health Emergencies in Large Populations"), for doctors, nurses, nutritionists and sanitary engineers with experience of emergency or Third-World medicine. The course was held in Geneva from 15 June to 10 July and was attended by 25 participants, 17 of whom came from the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, the remainder being drawn from WHO, UNHCR, and the Pan-American Health Organization. The purpose of the course was, in particular, to train highly qualified personnel for disaster work and to promote the best possible co-operation between different humanitarian agencies in the field.

In addition, as in 1986, the ICRC called a meeting of war surgery experts in Geneva, from 9 to 12 July, in connection with the preparation of a War Surgery Manual. This second round table of experts made it possible to finalize the content of the Manual.