

Zeitschrift: Annual report / International Committee of the Red Cross
Herausgeber: International Committee of the Red Cross
Band: - (1988)

Rubrik: Communication

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: 12.12.2025

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

INFORMATION FROM THE FIELD

Throughout 1988, coverage of ICRC field activities was provided in several ways: information delegates spent relatively long periods at various delegations; special reporting teams were sent to gather material for use at headquarters to inform the public; meetings were organized with media representatives; and the media themselves showed considerable interest, mainly in large-scale ICRC field operations.

In 1988 the ICRC delegations in Ethiopia, Pakistan and Lebanon had one, sometimes two information delegates on their staff. These specialized delegates were responsible for receiving and briefing the many newspaper correspondents visiting the delegations and for producing articles for publication by the ICRC and the Movement.

The ICRC delegation in Israel and the occupied territories was visited in May by a team which brought back reports and photographs on the operation for publication in the *ICRC Bulletin* and in *Red Cross/Red Crescent* magazine.

In late December a team went to southern Sudan to take pictures and shoot film for the donors, the National Societies and the public. The mission also enabled the ICRC to satisfy the many requests of the international press, interested by the institution's activities in this conflict.

In August, ICRC spokesmen took part in the repatriation of Ethiopian and Somali prisoners of war and, in November, in the repatriation — unfortunately only partial — of Iraqi and Iranian prisoners of war. When ICRC delegate Peter Winkler was kidnapped in Lebanon a person was sent from Geneva to handle contact with the media.

Last but not least, special meetings were held with members of the press to enhance their knowledge and understanding of the essential rules of humanitarian law, the principles that govern ICRC work and ongoing activities. Two seminars were organized for African journalists (English- and French-speaking), one in London and the other in Paris. This type of dialogue is part of the ICRC's constant effort to develop its network of contacts with the media throughout the world.

INFORMATION FROM HEADQUARTERS

The public was kept regularly informed about the ICRC's day-to-day work, emergency operations and official stands on various issues. In addition to the monthly *ICRC Bulletin*, the media received about 40 press releases on the main events affecting the institution during the year. ICRC representatives gave many radio and television interviews. The kidnapping of Peter Winkler, his release and the temporary departure of ICRC delegates from Lebanon aroused particular interest in the international media.

The information offices of the National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies continued to receive a steady flow of information so that they could answer questions from their national media. Press kits containing articles, pictures and slides on ICRC and National Society activities in Ethiopia, South Africa, Somalia, El Salvador, Pakistan and South-East Asia were sent to the National Societies for their contacts with the press and for use in their publications. At the same time, over sixty news flashes of an operational nature were sent by telex on ICRC activities in "hot spots", as were various communications to the press.

In 1988, a number of National Society information officers were received at headquarters, thereby considerably strengthening ties between the ICRC and the National Societies.

Publications

Special events — To make its publications better known, in April the ICRC participated for the first time in the Paris Book Fair, displaying a wide selection of its French-language publications. The French Red Cross was invited to help man the ICRC stand and contributed greatly to its success.

In May, for the second year running, the ICRC presented its recent publications to the many people who came to the Geneva Press and Book Fair. The public was very interested to see the ICRC in an unfamiliar role — that of publisher.

Generally speaking, the ICRC has increasingly tended to publish texts in languages other than English, French, Spanish and Arabic. A particular effort has been made

to produce works in German, Italian, Portuguese, Russian and Chinese.

The list of publications hereunder includes only material published in Switzerland. ICRC delegations throughout the world also produced brochures and other written material locally.

In 1988, the ICRC issued the following publications:

- Russbach, Rémi: *The International Committee of the Red Cross and health* (English, French, Spanish and German) — offprint from the *Review*.
- *Resolutions of the Council of Delegates, Rio de Janeiro, 1987* (English, French and Spanish) — offprint from the *Review*.
- Verhaegen, Jacques: *Entraves juridiques à la poursuite des infractions au droit humanitaire* — offprint from the *Review*.
- *Red Cross/Red Crescent. A colouring book for children* (English, French, Spanish, Portuguese, German and Arabic).
- ICRC protection and assistance activities in situations not covered by international humanitarian law (English, French, Spanish and Arabic) — offprint from the *Review*.
- Gasser, Hans-Peter: *A measure of humanity in internal disturbances and tensions: proposal for a Code of Conduct* (English, French, Spanish and German) — offprint from the *Review*.
- Meron, Theodor: *Draft Model Declaration on internal strife* (English, French and Spanish) — offprint from the *Review*.
- *1987 Annual Report* (English, French, Spanish, German and Arabic).
- *Statutes of the International Committee of the Red Cross* (adopted in June 1973, revised in December 1973, in 1974, in 1977, in 1982 and in January 1988) (English, French and Spanish) — offprint from the *Review*.
- Dufour, D., Kroman Jensen, S., Owen-Smith, M., Salmela, J., Stening, G.F., Zetterström, B., eds.: *Surgery for victims of war*.
- Aubert, Maurice: *The question of superior orders and the responsibility of Commanding Officers in the Protocol additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 and relating to the protection of victims of international armed conflicts (Protocol I) of 8 June 1977*

(English, French, Spanish and German) — offprint from the *Review*.

- Krill, Françoise: *ICRC action in aid of refugees* (English, French, Spanish and German) — offprint from the *Review*.
- Hocké, Jean-Pierre: *Protection by action* (English, French and Spanish) — offprint from the *Review*.
- Hagman, Gunnar: *From disaster relief to development* (English and French) — offprint from the *Review*.
- Nunes, Luis: *A concept of development for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement* (English and French) - offprint from the *Review*.
- Verri, Pietro: *Dictionnaire du droit international des conflits armés*.
- Muntarbhorn, Vitit: *Protection and assistance for refugees in armed conflicts and internal disturbances: reflections on the mandates of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees* (English, French and Spanish) — offprint from the *Review*.
- Patrnoic, Jovića: *Thoughts on the relationship between international humanitarian law and refugee law, their promotion and dissemination* (English, French and Spanish) - offprint from the *Review*.
- Sandoz, Yves: *Developing National Societies: an ongoing challenge* (English, French and Spanish) — offprint from the *Review*.
- Durand, André: *Human rights as perceived by the founders of the Red Cross* (English, French and Spanish) — offprint from the *Review*.

Jointly with the League, the ICRC published:

- *Council of Delegates, Rio de Janeiro, 27 November 1987*. Verbatim report (English, French and Spanish).

And with other organizations:

- *The Red Cross in a world of conflicts*. UBS/ICRC, Geneva/Tokyo (bilingual English/Japanese).
- *Hommage aux fondateurs du Comité international de la Croix-Rouge. Pose d'une plaque commémorative à l'ancien "Casino de Saint-Pierre" le 9 février 1988*. ICRC, Henry Dunant Society, Geneva Public Welfare Society.

- *War veterans and international humanitarian law, yesterday, today and tomorrow. Official records of the symposium held in Sundvolden (Norway) from 16-20 March 1986.* Françoise Krill, Christophe Swinarski, eds. ICRC and Norwegian Red Cross (English and French).

The following publications were reprinted:

- *The Red Cross and my country* (Arabic version for North Africa).
- *The Red Cross and my country. Teacher's manual* (African version in English and French).

The ICRC also translated a number of publications:

Into Portuguese:

- *Retrato dum Movimento internacional.*
- *Elementos essenciais sobre a Lei da Guerra.*

Into Arabic:

- Moreillon, Jacques. *Le CICR face à l'avenir ou les cinq grands défis de l'an 2000.*
- Sassòli, Marco: *The National Information Bureau in aid of the victims of armed conflicts.*
- Gasser, Hans-Peter: *Prohibition of terrorist acts in international humanitarian law.*
- Abi-Saab, Rosemary: *The "general principles" of humanitarian law according to the International Court of Justice.*
- *Statutes and Rules of Procedure of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.*
- *The ICRC and the Independent Commission on International Humanitarian Issues.*

In addition, the brochure *The Central Tracing Agency of the ICRC* is now also available in Russian and Chinese.

Radio programmes

The Red Cross Broadcasting Service (RCBS) continued to broadcast its twice-monthly shortwave programmes throughout the world in six languages: English, French, Spanish, German, Arabic and Portuguese. Omnidirectional broadcasts were transmitted on the ICRC frequency (7210 kHz), while programmes were beamed to Africa, the Mid-

dle East, Asia, North America and Latin America using air time made available by Swiss Radio International. In all, RCBS is on the air for about one hundred hours each year.

Every month RCBS received about 120 letters and listeners' reports from all over the world. More than 1,600 listeners, whose addresses are on computer file, regularly received new programme schedules. These schedules were also sent to the National Societies and to about 200 radio clubs worldwide so that they could mention them in their publications.

RCBS also participated in the annual conventions of the European DX Council and the Association of North American Radio Clubs, thereby maintaining contact with radio clubs and representatives of international radio stations broadcasting over short wave.

To reach an even wider audience, tapes of RCBS programmes were mailed each month to over 120 destinations: ICRC delegations, about 40 National Societies and a number of national networks and local radio stations for retransmission within their countries or regions. A monthly programme in Portuguese was sent to ten radio stations, and a broadcast in German was made every two weeks for a radio station in New York.

All RCBS programmes are produced at the ICRC studio in Geneva. They are broadcast free of charge thanks to the technical co-operation of the Swiss Postal and Telecommunications Administration and to Swiss Radio International, which transmits the programmes.

As in previous years, RCBS co-operated with the League in preparation for World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day on 8 May. The taped message for 8 May was sent to 128 National Societies and to the ICRC delegations.

Also for 8 May, a report on ICRC activities on the Khmer-Thai border was co-produced by Radio France International (RFI) and the ICRC. The programme went out over RFI wavelengths and was sent to RFI's 50 broadcasting partners. It was also made available to 37 National Societies.

Audiovisual activities

The Audiovisual Communication Division (DICA) continued to meet the many requests of ICRC departments and delegations, National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and the media for audiovisual material. The material produced (16mm films, videos, photos, slides and graphic work) was used mainly to back up dissemination and operational information efforts.

Six major areas of ICRC activity received photographic coverage during the year:

- *Ethiopia (January 1988)*: protection and assistance activities in northern Ethiopia.
- *Iran/Iraq (February 1988)*: repatriation of prisoners of war.
- *Israel (June 1988)*: ICRC activities in Israel (cover article for *Red Cross/Red Crescent* magazine).
- *Far East (August/September 1988)*: Central Tracing Agency activities in Hong Kong, China, Malaysia and Thailand. This special report was sent in the form of a press kit to the National Societies for the 125th anniversary of the Movement.
- *Ethiopia/Somalia (August 1988)*: repatriation of Ethiopian and Somali prisoners of war.
- *Iran/Iraq (November 1988)*: repatriation of prisoners of war.

As in the past, a large amount of graphic work was done by the DICA's graphic artist, especially for the Geneva Book and Press Fair and for the Fifth Festival of Comic Strips, held in Sierre, Switzerland.

The following 16mm films were produced:

- *War Surgery: an Introduction*: a teaching film on war surgery (in English only).
- *The Story of Omer Khan*: a film about an Afghan boy who took refuge in Pakistan after being wounded by a mine (in English, French and German).
- *Retrospective 87*: an overview of ICRC activities in 1987 (in English, French, German, Spanish, Portuguese and Arabic).
- *Destination Paix*: a film on ICRC activities produced by the Nigerian filmmaker Ola Balogun (no voice-over).

In addition, a Portuguese version was made of *A Plea for Humanity*, a Spanish version of *To Walk, Again* and French and German versions of *Anxious For News*.

The following video films were produced in 1988:

- *An Early Warning*: the story of 20th century Ethiopia, the reasons for the emergency and the work of the ICRC (in English and French).

- *Video News*: four news flashes for television, shot in Ethiopia (in English and French).
- *Traces*: an introduction to the International Tracing Service (ITS) in Arolsen, using the eyewitness accounts of four people who survived the war (in English, French and German).
- *Man's Humanity to Man*: an ICRC/Pathé-Cinema co-production on the Red Cross Movement from its inception to its present-day activities (in English, French and Spanish).
- A 90-second video clip for television to commemorate the 125th anniversary (no voice-over).
- News flashes filmed in Quetta (Pakistan), to provide media support for the Afghanistan appeal (no voice-over).
- *L'eau...*: a production on water and sanitation problems (in French only).

The DICA also produced material for use within the institution, to train and inform ICRC staff.

The International Review of the Red Cross

At its meeting of 17 and 18 March 1988, the ICRC Assembly reaffirmed and specified the nature and objectives of the *International Review of the Red Cross*; it emphasized that the *Review*, the ICRC's official publication, was at the service of all the components of the Movement and was a faithful record of its guiding principles and activities vis-à-vis the outside world.

The ICRC, which bears overall responsibility for publication of the *Review*, wishes it to continue its development whilst maintaining a tradition of quality, true to the principles and ideals of the International Red Cross. This means voicing the concerns of members of the Movement, opening its pages more widely to humanitarian issues, covering a greater variety of subjects and encouraging the submission of articles by people from all over the world.

Another innovation illustrating the *Review's* policy of receptiveness and dissemination is that from May 1988 an Arabic version was published, to help spread knowledge of the message and activities of the Movement in Arabic-speaking circles.

In 1988 there were three special issues of the *Review*: "Internal disturbances and tensions" (January-February), "Development and co-operation within the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement" (May-June) and

“Refugees and conflict situations” (July-August). In addition, several aspects of international humanitarian law, such as “The question of superior orders and the responsibility of Commanding Officers in Protocol I”, “International humanitarian law and arms control” and “Underwater acoustic identification of hospital ships”, were examined, as were the notion of human rights as perceived by the founders of the Red Cross, basic health care, etc. The *Review* also printed a previously unpublished account of a soldier who had taken part in the 1859 Italian campaign.

The *Review* highlighted current events in its summaries of ICRC life in Geneva and the activities of its delegations throughout the world.

On the occasion of the 125th anniversary of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, the *Review* published the reflections and memories of well-known people in and outside the Movement. It covered the main events marking the commemoration, in particular the Seminar on Information and Dissemination of International Humanitarian Law as a Contribution to Peace, held in Leningrad, the inauguration of the International Museum of the Red Cross and Red Crescent in Geneva and the Scientific Symposium on the Precursors of the Red Cross, which took place in Geneva in October.

The *Review* continued to chronicle the main activities of the Movement, reporting on statutory meetings and international or regional seminars organized in 1988 across the globe (especially those on dissemination of international humanitarian law organized by the ICRC, the League and the National Societies). It also covered events organized by other humanitarian organizations, such as the International Institute of Humanitarian Law in San Remo.

The *Review* announced the recognition by the ICRC of new National Societies and ratifications or accessions to the Protocols additional to the Geneva Conventions. It also published about a dozen reviews of books on humanitarian law or humanitarian issues.

Visits to the ICRC

In 1988, a total of 7,221 people (members of National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, diplomats, officers and students from nursing, vocational and secondary schools) visited ICRC headquarters in Geneva, either in groups or individually. They were given talks on ICRC activities, illustrated by films. Visits were also organized to the Central Tracing Agency.