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

The work of the statutory bodies

COUNCIL OF DELEGATES

The Council of Delegates, which is made up of representatives of the National Societies, the ICRC and the League, met on 26 and 27 October in Geneva under the chairmanship of Mr. Cornelio Sommaruga, President of the ICRC.

At its meeting on 26 October, the Chairman of the Standing Commission awarded the Henry Dunant Medal and, for the first time, the Red Cross and Red Crescent Prize for Peace and Humanity (see *Standing Commission* below).

In response to a proposal by Dr. Mouloud Belaouane, President of the Algerian Red Crescent, the Council then adopted an appeal for the immediate and unconditional release of Emanuel Christen and Elio Erriquez, the two ICRC delegates abducted on 6 October in Sidon, Lebanon.

At its meeting on 27 October, the Council began by discussing the Movement's contribution to peace (see *Commission on the Red Crescent, Red Crescent and Peace*) and adopted three resolutions by consensus:

- in Resolution 1, the Council approved the goal of the *World Campaign for the Protection of Victims of War* and the plan as outlined in the Steering Committee's report. It also urged the National Societies, the ICRC and the League to take active part in implementing the project on a national, regional and international basis;
- in Resolution 2, the Council accepted the *Report of the Group of Experts on Human Rights* as approved by the Commission on the Red Cross, Red Crescent and Peace and urged the National Societies, the ICRC and the League to do their utmost to implement the report's conclusions and recommendations;
- in Resolution 3, the Council noted that, for lack of time, the Commission on the Red Cross, Red Crescent and Peace had been unable to fulfil the mandates entrusted to it and therefore extended the *mandate of the Commission* with its current composition until the Council next met.

The Council then took note of the joint ICRC-League report on the Movement's *Information Policy* and adopted a fourth resolution approving the global approach to communications as defined in the report and recommending that the National Societies, the ICRC and the League use the *Identity Statement* contained in the report to promote the Movement and its work.

The Council adopted three further resolutions: Resolution 5 confirmed that the Movement would be taking part in the *1992 Universal Exposition in Seville*; Resolution 6 requested the formation of a working group to examine the 1987 revised provisions on the *use of the emblem* in the light of experience and new developments, prior to their formal adoption by the Twenty-sixth International Conference; Resolution 7 asked the ICRC to continue the *study on respect for and dissemination of the Fundamental Principles*.

The Council took note of a report by Mr. Maurice Aubert, ICRC Vice-President, on the various events held to mark the Movement's 125th anniversary.

The *Report on the Activities of the Henry Dunant Institute* in 1989 was presented by Judge Darrell Jones on behalf of Mr. Mario Villarroel, Chairman of the Institute and President of the League. The Council also took note both of a document drawn up by nine African National Societies in support of the Henry Dunant Institute's development studies and a pledge by the League Secretary General of his institution's continued support for those projects.

In its November-December 1989 and January-February 1990 issues, the *International Review of the Red Cross* published the full text of the resolutions and a summary of the Council's work.

Commission on the Red Cross, Red Crescent and Peace

The Commission on the Red Cross, Red Crescent and Peace, set up in 1987 by the Council of Delegates and composed of representatives of the League, the ICRC, the Henry Dunant Institute and 15 National Societies (Australia, Benin, Brazil, Colombia, Egypt, Ethiopia, France, German Democratic Republic, Indonesia, Jordan, Mauritania,

Yemen Arab Republic, Yugoslavia and, alternately, Sweden and Finland), met twice in 1989 (26th meeting on 17 April and 27th meeting on 17 October) in Geneva under the chairmanship of Mr. Alexandre Hay.

During its meetings, the Commission studied the results of the letter sent to National Societies asking what follow-up should be given to the *Seminar on Information and Dissemination of International Humanitarian Law as a Contribution to Peace* held in Leningrad in October 1988. There were few replies, but they nevertheless served as the basis for an interim report presented by the Commission to the Council of Delegates, recommending that the ICRC and the League should launch a programme to facilitate access by the National Societies in developing countries to the latest methods of communication.

The Commission took note of the joint working group's progress report on preparations for the *World Campaign for the Protection of Victims of War*. It reviewed the Campaign's objectives, its preliminary programme and the arrangements already made or still needed, and urged all the Movement's components to give the Campaign their full support. The Campaign's Steering Committee, chaired by Mrs. Magnuson, Vice-Chairman of the Swedish Red Cross, was supplemented by seven National Society representatives from various parts of the world.

The Commission also approved the Final Report of the Group of Experts on Human Rights (*see below*). After discussing its own future and the mandates it must still discharge under Decision 1 of the 1985 Council of Delegates, the Commission agreed to set itself a programme of work for reactivation of the *Red Cross and Red Crescent Plan of Action against Racism and Racial Discrimination*. It accordingly appointed an *ad hoc* group of three National Societies (Ethiopia, Sweden and Yugoslavia) to receive and study reports, information or enquiries regarding practices or behaviour implying racial discrimination inside or outside the Movement; to advise, if it deemed necessary, the ICRC and the League to take the appropriate joint steps; and to report periodically to the Commission on its work. Finally, the Commission had an initial exchange of views on the possibility of drawing up a *four-year plan on the Programme of Action of the Red Cross as a Factor of Peace* and discussed the final document of the Aaland Conference.

Group of Experts on Human Rights

The Group of Experts on Human Rights, set up by the Commission on the Red Cross, Red Crescent and Peace in April 1987, held its third meeting in Geneva from

23 to 25 January. It was chaired by Mr. Diego Uribe Vargas of the Colombian Red Cross Society.

The Group, made up of representatives of the ICRC, the League and 10 National Societies (both members and non-members of the Commission), closely examined its draft final report to the Commission. The report, based on the replies from 86 National Societies to the human rights questionnaire sent to them, sets out the wide range of activities in which the Movement makes a significant contribution to respect for human rights. It concludes with a series of recommendations identifying the areas of activity in which the Movement, without violating its Fundamental Principles or overstepping its mandate, should take more dynamic action to promote human rights while respecting the priorities of each of its components. A greater commitment on the part of the Movement is, for example, particularly needed in the struggle to eradicate torture, to end enforced or involuntary disappearances, to counter racial discrimination and to increase protection of children's rights.

The *Final Report of the Group of Experts on Human Rights* was approved by the Commission and submitted to the Council of Delegates, which then adopted it (Resolution 2).

STANDING COMMISSION

In 1989 the Standing Commission of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, composed of five members elected by the International Conference, two representatives of the League and two representatives of the ICRC, met on 18 April and 18 October. It was chaired by Dr. Ahmad Abu Goura, President of the Jordan National Red Crescent Society.

The Commission adopted the text of an *appeal for the protection of civilians in Lebanon*, which was widely distributed.

Mr. G. Rueda Montaña, President of the Colombian Red Cross Society, presented a report to the Commission on *preparations for the Twenty-sixth International Conference*, stressing the interest shown by the Colombian government. The Commission accepted the proposal that it could, if necessary, send a delegation to Colombia in mid-1990 to see how preparations for the next Conference were progressing. The Commission members also asked the ICRC and the League to consult the governments on the subject.

The Standing Commission examined the nominations for the *Henry Dunant Medal*, which has been awarded every two years since 1969 for exceptional services or acts of great

dedication to the Movement's cause, especially in the international sphere. The medal was awarded in 1989 to six people: posthumously to Mr. Michael Egabu, a Uganda Red Cross Society worker killed in an ambush while taking part in an ICRC relief operation; to Mr. George M. Elsey, former President and President Emeritus of the American Red Cross; Mr. Ali Fourati, honorary President of the Tunisian Red Crescent; Dr. L. Kashetra Snidvongs, former Executive Vice-President of the Thai Red Cross Society; Mr. Gejza Mencer, member of the Federal Committee of the Czechoslovak Red Cross; and Mr. Leon Stubbings, former Secretary General of the Australian Red Cross Society.

Pursuant to Resolution 1 of the 1987 Council of Delegates, the Standing Commission awarded, for the first time, the *Red Cross and Red Crescent Prize for Peace and Humanity*. The Lebanese Red Cross was the first to receive this prize, which is intended for National Societies or individuals who have made a significant contribution to international solidarity.

The Standing Commission also drew up the provisional agenda for the Council of Delegates to be held on 26 and 27 October and approved the list of emergent National Societies invited as observers.

At each session, the League and ICRC representatives kept the Standing Commission fully informed about their activities.

In addition, the Chairman of the Standing Commission and the Presidents of the ICRC and the League met twice, on 6 February in Geneva and on 18 July in Istanbul; they discussed preparations for the Standing Commission meetings and dealt with tasks entrusted to them by the Commission. They accordingly chose the work of art to be presented as the Red Cross and Red Crescent Prize for Peace and Humanity.

Relations with the components of the Movement

NATIONAL SOCIETIES

Dialogue with the National Societies

As part of its effort to strengthen its links with the National Societies and enhance mutual understanding and co-operation, the ICRC began a series of missions in 1986 to meet their leaders and hold detailed discussions on what

they expect from the ICRC and vice versa. More such *missions by members of the Committee* were carried out in 1989: Mrs. Liselotte Kraus-Gurny and Mr. Rudolf Jäckli travelled to Algeria, Mauritania and Morocco in February and March; Mr. Jäckli also went to Tunisia in February, to Egypt in May and to Ethiopia in July; Mr. Alexandre Hay went to Turkey in April, and Mr. Pierre Keller went to the United States in September. The ICRC carefully assessed the results of these ongoing missions to National Societies around the world.

Missions by the President also provided many opportunities for discussions with leaders of National Societies. President Sommaruga went to Belgium in February, France in March, the United States in May, Colombia, Peru, the Federal Republic of Germany, Israel, Italy and Turkey in June, Yugoslavia in September, Chad, Portugal and Italy in November and Spain and Syria in December. On each of these visits, he was able to speak directly with both officials and volunteers at the Societies' headquarters and sometimes at their local branches as well (see also the above-mentioned countries in the section *Field operations*).

Participation in commemorative events held by National Societies

As part of its policy of dialogue, the ICRC shows its interest in and appreciation of the work done by the National Societies by regularly delegating the President or a member of the Committee to attend commemorative events organized by National Societies. In 1989, the ICRC was represented at the following events:

- President Sommaruga attended the celebrations, held in the presence of the King and Queen of Belgium, to mark the *125th anniversary of the Belgian Red Cross*. In his speech, the President paid tribute to the Movement's oldest National Society and its work and thanked it for the support it has always given the ICRC.
- Mr. Jacques Forster, a member of the Committee, represented the ICRC at ceremonies to mark the *25th anniversary of the Nepal Red Cross Society*. During his visit he was able to make numerous contacts both with leaders of local branches and with members of the government.
- Mr. Maurice Aubert, Vice-President of the ICRC, attended the *70th anniversary of the Czechoslovak Red Cross*, which coincided with the Society's 10th Congress. The celebrations took place in a very friendly atmosphere, in the presence of a large gathering of people.

- Mr. Odilo Guntern, a Committee member, attended ceremonies to mark the *125th anniversary of the Battle of "Düppeler Schanzen"*. During the ceremonies, organized by the Danish Red Cross and the Red Cross of Schleswig-Holstein, a plaque was unveiled to commemorate the mission carried out by Dr. Appia and Captain Van de Velde, the first two Red Cross delegates.
- Mr. Hans Haug, a Committee member, attended celebrations held for the *125th anniversary of the Hamburg Red Cross*, founded during the war between Prussia and Denmark.
- Mrs. Denise Bindschedler-Robert, Vice-President of the ICRC, attended events to mark the *50th anniversary of the Red Cross Society of Mongolia*, which was celebrated during the Society's 5th Congress. It was the ICRC's first visit to the Mongolian Red Cross since its foundation and contacts were established at various levels, in particular with the Society's Vice-Chairman and the Chief of its External Affairs Department. Mrs. Bindschedler-Robert presented the Florence Nightingale Medal to a nurse who had performed remarkable work during the Second World War.
- Mrs. Anne Petitpierre, a Committee member, represented the ICRC at celebrations marking the *70th anniversary of the Polish Red Cross*, which coincided with the Society's 11th Congress. In a brief speech to the Congress, Mrs. Petitpierre paid tribute to the Society's long humanitarian tradition and excellent co-operation with the ICRC. She also presented the Florence Nightingale Medal to six nurses.
- President Sommaruga attended celebrations marking the *125th anniversary of the Spanish Red Cross*, held in the presence of the King and Queen of Spain and representatives of European, Latin American and African National Societies, the League and the Standing Commission. In a speech, Mr. Sommaruga made particular mention of the Society's democratization and the key role played by volunteers. He thanked the Spanish Red Cross for its generous donation of relief supplies in support of the ICRC's operation in El Salvador.
- President Sommaruga attended events marking the *125th anniversary of the Italian Red Cross*, which was celebrated during an assembly of representatives from the various voluntary services of the Italian Red Cross. In a speech, Mr. Sommaruga remarked on the important role played by the young volunteers and the motiv-

ation they showed during the *Supercamp* and thanked the Italian Red Cross and government authorities for their steadfast support for the ICRC's work.

Meetings between the National Societies and the ICRC

A briefing on special operations financed through fund-raising appeals was held at ICRC headquarters on 13 and 14 April. It was attended by representatives of the League and 16 National Societies from Australia, Belgium, Canada, Finland, France, the Federal Republic of Germany, Iceland, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the United States. Talks were given on current ICRC activities and the ICRC's budgeting and budgetary control procedures.

On 15 June, the ICRC organized a *briefing on its work in southern Sudan* which coincided with meetings held at the League. The briefing was held for representatives of 19 National Societies: Belgium, Bangladesh, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, the Federal Republic of Germany, Hungary, Iceland, Jamaica, the Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, the United States and the USSR. The ICRC described its activities in southern Sudan and presented financing and expenditure forecasts for its 1989 operations, describing in detail the needs for the second half of 1989 as set out in the ICRC appeal for the same period.

As usual, the ICRC organized a briefing (review of its main current activities and information on various subjects of common-interest within the Movement, followed by discussions) on 19 April for National Society representatives attending statutory meetings in Geneva. Representatives of the League and the Henry Dunant Institute also took part.

Recognition of new National Societies

On the recommendation of the Joint ICRC/League Commission on National Society Statutes and after verifying that the Societies met the 10 conditions for recognition set out in Article 4 of the Movement's Statutes, the ICRC announced the formal recognition of the Dominica Red Cross on 15 March 1989 and the Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Red Cross on 4 October 1989.

In accordance with its mandate, the ICRC promptly informed all National Societies and the League of these recognitions, which brought to 149 the number of member Societies of the Movement.

The *Dominica Red Cross* was founded in 1958 as a branch of the British Red Cross. It was recognized by a Dominica government decree issued on 7 April 1983. Because the island is frequently affected by natural disasters, the Dominica National Society places particular stress on first-aid work and disaster relief. It also has a very active youth section.

The *Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Red Cross* was founded in 1949, also as a branch of the British Red Cross. It was officially recognized as a voluntary relief society auxiliary to the public authorities by government decree in May 1984. It concentrates on first aid, disaster preparedness and assistance to disaster victims.

Development of National Societies

The ICRC continued contributing to the development of a number of National Societies in its own specific areas as follows:

- strengthening the National Societies' operational capacity in, or preparedness for, emergency situations (armed conflict);
- in conjunction with the League, technical and legal assistance in founding or reorganizing National Societies;
- promoting and supporting National Society projects for their dissemination programmes and information services (see also the 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.

The Central Tracing Agency (CTA), pursuant to Resolution XVI of the Twenty-fifth International Conference, continued its efforts to co-ordinate activities, harmonize operating principles and working methods and train tracing and family reunification personnel. A course in French was held in Geneva from 26 to 30 June for representatives of 12 National Societies from Africa, Europe and the Middle East. The same course, this time in English, was given from 4 to 8 September for representatives of five European National Societies. Visits to CTA headquarters giving a comprehensive view of its work were arranged in September and November for representatives of the Chinese and Swedish National Societies. A course

in Spanish was organized by the CTA from 22 to 27 May in Quito, Ecuador, for representatives of 11 Latin American National Societies and a course in French was held in Hanoi in May for officials from the Red Cross of Viet Nam.

In addition, the ICRC took part in five technical seminars devoted exclusively to the work of tracing services and organized respectively by the French Red Cross, the Alliance of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies of the USSR, the German Red Cross (FRG), the British Red Cross and the Red Cross of Yugoslavia.

Participation in meetings of National Societies

In 1989, the ICRC took part in the following meetings and seminars (seminars dealing more specifically with dissemination are reported in *Dissemination of international humanitarian law and the principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement* or under the country concerned in *Field operations*).

Africa

- *Annual meeting of the SAP* (Southern Africa Programme) in **Lilongwe**, Malawi, from 9 to 12 March. The meeting was organized by the League and attended by representatives of the nine operating National Societies, of the participating Societies and of the Institute for the Development of Southern African Red Cross Societies. The National Societies of South Africa, Namibia, Burkina Faso, Niger, Senegal and Ethiopia attended as observers. Discussion centred on mutual co-operation and the joint strategy for development of the region's National Societies in the next decade.

Latin America

- *Seminar on the contribution of natural disasters to development*, held in **Bogotá**, Colombia, from 28 February to 4 March. This technical seminar was organized by the Colombian Red Cross Society and brought together representatives of all the Latin American National Societies, those of Spain and the United States, representatives of the League and the Henry Dunant Institute and experts from the European Economic Community and UNDP. The seminar dealt with the possibility of combining development with disaster relief, the importance of preventing or at least anticipating disasters and the necessity of co-operation

between the region's Societies to ensure that their experience in disaster relief and its social consequences is shared.

- *Fourth meeting of National Society Presidents from sub-region II (South America) in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 13 to 15 June.* The meeting was attended by the Presidents of ten National Societies, the League and the Inter-American Regional Committee. They discussed the integrated development of the National Societies and preparations for the League General Assembly in October.
- *Thirteenth meeting of National Society Presidents from sub-region I (Central America) in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, from 13 to 15 July.* The meeting was attended by the Presidents and representatives of the nine Central American Societies and by representatives of the American, Colombian, Finnish, and Icelandic National Societies and the League.

Asia and the Pacific

- *Fourth meeting of Pacific island National Societies in Nuku'alofa, Tonga, from 5 to 12 June.* The meeting was organized jointly by the League and the Tonga Red Cross Society and brought together representatives of the region's nine recognized or emergent National Societies (the Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Papua New Guinea, the Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu and Samoa). Representatives of the American, Australian, British, Chinese, Japanese, New Zealand and Swedish Red Cross Societies attended as observers. The meeting dealt mainly with co-operation in developing the Societies concerned and set priorities for the next two years.

Europe

- *Meeting of the National Societies of the European Community member States in Paris, France, from 6 to 8 March.* This meeting was organized by the French Red Cross to consider the effect that the forthcoming European Single Market in 1992 would have on the activities and future co-operation of the EC countries' National Societies. The meeting was attended by the presidents, directors and secretaries general of the 12 EC Societies concerned and by representatives of the League, the Austrian, Monegasque and Swiss National Societies and the (not yet recognized) Andorra Red Cross. President Sommaruga, who gave a speech at the opening cer-

emony, led the ICRC delegation, which took part in the three working groups.

- *Thirteenth International Festival of Red Cross and Health Films in Varna, Bulgaria, from 27 May to 4 June.* Mr. Alexandre Hay, a Committee member, joined the ICRC delegation for the festival's closing ceremony at which the Grand Prix of the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies for the best Red Cross film was awarded to "The Story of Omer Khan", an ICRC production.
- *Eighth Conference of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies of the Balkan countries in Istanbul, Turkey, from 18 to 20 July.* The members of the Conference are the National Societies of Albania, Bulgaria, Greece, Romania, Turkey and Yugoslavia. It was also attended, as invited observers, by National Society representatives from the countries bordering on Turkey and from Hungary, Libya, Pakistan and Spain, as well as the Secretary General of the General Secretariat of Arab Red Crescent and Red Cross Societies. At the opening ceremony Mr. Sommaruga, who led the ICRC delegation, made a speech stressing the importance of a humanitarian mobilization. The Conference discussed the theme of the Red Cross and peace, dissemination of knowledge of international humanitarian law and the social welfare activities of the various member Societies. The ICRC described its dissemination activities and took part in the discussions, which confirmed the need to strengthen regional co-operation and preserve the Balkans as a region of lasting peace.
- *Red Cross and Red Crescent Symposium held in San Remo, Italy, on 15 and 16 September.* The Symposium dealt with the role of the National Societies in non-international armed conflicts. It was chaired by Dr. Ahmad Abu Goura, Chairman of the Standing Commission, and attended by President Sommaruga who, in his opening address, drew attention to the difficulties encountered in such situations by National Societies attempting to bring aid to both parties and stressed the need for a neutral intermediary. Representatives of the National Societies of Colombia, Mozambique, Netherlands, Philippines, Sweden and Uganda gave reports on the experience acquired by their respective Societies in one or several of the following fields: medical activities; activities as intermediaries between parties to a conflict; steps to be taken in the event of violations of fundamental guarantees; and international activities of the Movement and the role of National Societies.

The discussions that followed showed, among other things, that the National Societies, both operating and participating, would like to be more extensively associated with the work of the ICRC, while acknowledging the latter's specific nature.

- *Supercamp 1989* — see the report on this important event in the chapter entitled “*Communication*”.

Middle East

- *Fifth Conference of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies of the Mediterranean Region* in **Algiers** from 8 to 11 June. The Conference was organized by the Algerian Red Crescent and brought together representatives of 13 Mediterranean and five other National Societies, as well as representatives of the General Secretariat of Arab Red Crescent and Red Cross Societies, the League, the UNHCR and the ICRC, whose delegation was led by Mr. Alexandre Hay, member of the Committee.
- *International camp for young members of the Movement*, in **Allan**, Jordan, from 6 to 12 July 1989. The camp was organized by the students' section of the Jordan National Red Crescent Society and assembled leaders and youth members of the National Societies of Bulgaria, Egypt, the Federal Republic of Germany, Iraq, Libya, Qatar, Syria, Sweden and Turkey as well as members of the host Society and of the (not yet recognized) “*Palestinian Red Crescent*”. The ICRC explained the institution's place among the humanitarian organizations and gave an account of a visit to a prisoner-of-war camp.

Empress Shōken Fund

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

The Joint League/ICRC Commission for the distribution of income from the Empress Shōken Fund met in Geneva on 29 March under the chairmanship of Mr. Maurice Aubert, ICRC Vice-President, and in the presence of Japan's Ambassador and Permanent Representative in Geneva. The Commission decided to carry out the *68th distribution of income*, in accordance with the criteria it

had set itself, among 12 National Societies, those of Equatorial Guinea, Guinea, Guyana, Lebanon, Madagascar, Morocco, Panama, the Solomon Islands, Togo, Tonga, Tuvalu and the Yemen Arab Republic, for the purchase of ambulances and other vehicles and relief equipment, blood-transfusion equipment and material for the training of relief workers (for details of the distribution, see the May-June 1989 edition of the *International Review of the Red Cross*).

Florence Nightingale Medal

The Florence Nightingale Medal was created to honour nurses and voluntary aides for having shown exceptional courage and devotion, in time of peace or war, in the service of wounded, sick or disabled persons or those whose health is threatened. It is awarded every two years to active members or regular helpers of National Societies or affiliated medical institutions.

The *32nd presentation of the Medal* was made in 1989. After considering the nominations submitted by National Societies, the ICRC awarded the Florence Nightingale Medal on 12 May to 42 qualified nurses and voluntary aides from 18 countries.

LEAGUE OF RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT SOCIETIES

In order to maintain unity and solidarity within the Movement, the ICRC and the League are in daily contact on operational matters and regularly consult each other about any procedural or substantive question relating to the work of the Movement's statutory bodies.

The ICRC and the League have also decided to reinstitute *joint meetings* between officials of the two institutions to co-ordinate their approach to matters of common interest. Such meetings were held on 11 April, 27 June, 26 September and 11 December. They largely dealt with preparations for statutory meetings within the Movement, progress made by joint studies, publications and other projects, the necessary co-operation between ICRC and League delegates in the field and information on the two institutions' respective current activities and missions of mutual interest.

New agreement between the ICRC and the League

In accordance with Article 7, para. 3, of the Movement's Statutes, the ICRC and the League drew up a new agreement to replace both the 1969 agreement and the 1974 in-

terpretation of it. The new agreement, approved by the ICRC Assembly on 5 October 1989, signed by representatives of both institutions on 20 October and ratified by the League General Assembly on 23 October, defines and specifies co-operation between the two institutions. It lays down the respective functions and responsibilities of each institution in Red Cross and Red Crescent international relief operations in the event of armed conflict, in peacetime, and in changing or in special situations. It furthermore establishes directives for the development, recognition and admission of National Societies and the review of their Statutes, for public relations and information, for fund-raising, training, etc. The National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies are required to assist in the implementation of this agreement, in conformity with their obligations under the Statutes of the Movement and the League Constitution.

Joint ICRC/League Commission on National Society Statutes

The Joint ICRC/League Commission on National Society Statutes met five times in 1989 (on 24 February, 10 May, 26 July, 29 September and 6 December).

In accordance with Resolutions VI of the Twenty-second International Conference (Tehran, 1973) and XX of the Twenty-fourth International Conference (Manila, 1981), the Commission examined draft amendments to their statutes submitted by 11 National Societies. It also followed and did its utmost to support the development of 12 emergent Societies.

After ICRC and League delegates in Dominica and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines had assessed the respective National Society's operational capacity, the Commission

recommended that the two Societies should be officially recognized by the ICRC and admitted to membership of the League.

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 October 1988, the Chairman has been Mr. Mario Enrique Villaroel, President of the League.

The ICRC, which is the Institute's principal source of financing, joins in certain studies undertaken by the Institute, for example on international humanitarian law. As in the past, the ICRC in 1989 provided instructors for:

- the *fourteenth introductory course on the international activities of the Red Cross and the Red Crescent*, for National Society leaders and volunteers (**Geneva**, 5 to 16 June), held in English and attended by representatives of 27 African, Asian and European Societies;
- the *European meeting of heads of penitentiary administrations* (**Messina**, Italy, 6 to 12 November), organized jointly with the International Centre for Sociological, Penal and Penitentiary Research and Studies at the University of Messina. The meeting was attended by almost 60 officials from the penitentiary administrations of European countries. They compared professional experience, discussed various problems involved in the running of prisons and agreed on a number of practical suggestions to improve the treatment of detainees and rationalize the administration of justice.