

**Zeitschrift:** The Swiss observer : the journal of the Federation of Swiss Societies in the UK  
**Herausgeber:** Federation of Swiss Societies in the United Kingdom  
**Band:** - (1948)  
**Heft:** 1089  
  
**Artikel:** Old age and survivors insurance  
**Autor:** [s.n.]  
**DOI:** <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-690460>

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bring about the *revision of the existing Conventions* and the *drafting of a new Convention for the protection of civilians*. It has moulded into a single coherent whole its own proposals, those of the preliminary Red Cross Conference (Geneva 1946) those of the lay and religious institutions who brought moral aid to the various war victims, and, finally, the sometimes very detailed suggestions of the Government Experts of fifteen countries particularly experienced in such matters, who met in Conference at Geneva under the Committee's auspices in April 1947. Subsequently, the opinions of several Governments absent in April, and those of the "Commission of National Red Cross Societies for the Study of Conventions" were added. A collection of drafts has been established by the Committee's departments, to be submitted to all National Red Cross Societies and to Governments, and examined by the XVIIth International Red Cross Conference at Stockholm in August 1948.

The Committee will report to this Conference on the work carried out on its own initiative, or in accordance with special mandates entrusted to it by preceding Conferences. It will moreover present its proposals, based on its experience in these matters. The drafting of the *General Report* and the special reports have largely occupied its general services during 1947.

The International Committee has given recognition to three new Red Cross Societies: the Lebanon Red Cross, the Philippines Red Cross and the Syrian Red Crescent. It has also worked towards the revival of the German Red Cross, particularly in the French zone, where it has already had the satisfaction of seeing local branches set up.

Various *missions and visits* have enabled the Inter-

national Committee strengthen the bonds which link it to national Societies, for instance, one of the members of the Central Directorate participated in the Pan American Red Cross Conference at Caracas, and took this opportunity to visit the Governments and Red Crosses of twenty Republics in Latin America. Three representatives attended the Regional Conference of European Red Crosses at Belgrade, and subsequently called on the Governments and national Societies of Albania, Bulgaria, Hungary, Rumania and Yugoslavia.

(*News Bulletin C.J. de la C.R.*)

## OLD AGE AND SURVIVORS INSURANCE.

The Federal Committee on Old Age and Survivors Insurance has held its second sitting in Berne on the 22nd of April under the chairmanship of Dr. A. Saxer, Director of the Federal Office for Social Insurance. The Committee examined the draft for an Order dealing with the voluntary insurance of Swiss citizens residing abroad. This draft had been prepared by the Federal Office and submitted in the first instance to a sub-committee presided over by Monsieur Albert Picot, President of the National Council. The draft has been unanimously approved by the Committee.

(As far as the Swiss residing abroad are concerned, an important step forward has thus been made. Before coming into force the proposed Order has, of course, yet to be endorsed by the Chief of the Federal Department for Public Economy and possibly also by the Federal Council itself.)

## OUR NEXT ISSUE.

Our next issue will be published on Friday, May 28th, 1948.

We take the opportunity of thanking the following subscribers for their kind and helpful donations, over and above their subscription: A. Schmid, Mrs. H. M. Heinzelmann, O. Bartholdi, J. B. Tschudy, Ch. L. Chapuis, R. Dupraz, H. Bingguely, C. de Mierre.

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