

# Relations with the Red Cross Institutions

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maintain their autonomy so that they may be able at all times to act in accordance with Red Cross principles.

*Voluntary Service* The Red Cross is a voluntary relief organisation not prompted in any manner by desire for gain.

*Unity* There can be only one Red Cross Society in any one country. It must be open to all. It must carry on its humanitarian work throughout its territory.

*Universality* The Red Cross is a world-wide institution in which all Societies have equal status and share equal responsibilities and duties in helping each other.

## **RELATIONS WITH THE RED CROSS INSTITUTIONS**

The ICRC's relations with the National Red Cross, Red Crescent and Red Lion and Sun, Societies, as well as with their federation, the League of Red Cross Societies, were particularly close in 1961. There were numerous contacts to settle questions of mutual interest and particularly to prepare the ceremonies which will mark the Centenary of the Red Cross in 1963. The Directorate of the ICRC and the Secretariat of the League continued to hold joint weekly meetings, alternately at the headquarters of each institution, in order to discuss matters of interest to the Red Cross movement.

### **Official recognitions**

In 1961, the ICRC officially recognized two National Red Cross Societies, that of Nigeria on May 4, and that of Togo on September 7. These two additions increased the number of recognized National Societies to 87.

### **International Red Cross meetings**

At the end of September and beginning of October, several large international Red Cross meetings took place in Prague, first

and foremost the Board of Governors of the League of Red Cross Societies. The ICRC was represented by observers at this Board, which meets in principle every two years and is attended by directors of all officially recognized National Societies.

The Standing Commission and other organs of the international Red Cross also took the opportunity of meeting. Thus, the Council of delegates, which is attended by the National Societies and representatives of the ICRC and the League, held two meetings on October 3 and 5, at which 62 Societies were represented. This was the first time that the Council of Delegates had met in the interval between two international Red Cross Conferences and dealt with basic questions.

Opened by Mr. André François-Poncet, Chairman of the Standing Commission, the Council of delegates was presided over by Mr. Léopold Boissier, President of the ICRC. One of its most important decisions was to adopt the Declaration of the Fundamental Red Cross Principles (see p. 53).

The other questions on the agenda also aroused keen interest and were marked by interventions from delegations from all parts of the world. Among other things, the Council asked the ICRC to prepare, for the 1963 Conference, draft rules on the use of the Red Cross emblem, as it considered such regulations were needed. It also encouraged the National Red Cross Societies to point out to their Governments the advantage of the new emblem, the staff of Aesculapius, red on a white ground, which it is proposed to create for civilian medical personnel. Finally, it confirmed the important rôle which the Societies can play in civil defence (see p. 49).

All the resolutions, which were usually adopted unanimously, aimed at supporting the activities of the international organs of the Red Cross, in particular the ICRC, and at enabling them to continue their efforts and to broaden still further the work of the great Red Cross movement in the service of humanity.

During the meetings in Prague the ICRC held an information session on October 5, for representatives of the National Societies. After Mr. F. Siordet, a member of the Committee, had recalled the principles which govern the ICRC's work, and the circumstances in which the organisation is called upon to intervene, Mr. R. Gallo-

pin, Executive Director, sketched a picture of the main tasks devolving upon the Committee at the time. He made particular mention of the activities assumed by the Committee in the conflicts in Algeria, the Congo, Laos and at Bizerta. Finally, Mr. J. Pictet, Director for General Affairs, spoke about the Geneva Conventions and their scope (see p. 45).

### National Societies

In addition to the numerous contacts already mentioned in this report, the ICRC took every opportunity to visit the National Societies and to demonstrate the interest which it takes in their work. Amongst these visits, the following should be mentioned :

In January, Mr. C. J. Burckhardt, member of the ICRC, was the guest of the Portuguese Red Cross ; in February, Mr. M. Bodmer, Vice-President of the ICRC, visited the British Red Cross ; in May, Professor A. Franceschetti, member of the ICRC, paid a short visit to the Danish Red Cross then, at the beginning of June, was welcomed at the headquarters of the Swedish Red Cross ; on May 27 and 28, Dr. E. Gloor, Vice-President, represented the ICRC at the 7th annual assembly of the Swiss Red Cross in Locarno ; from September 7 to 11, the President of the ICRC, Mr. Léopold Boissier, accompanied by Mr. M. Borsinger, Secretary to the Presidency, visited the Norwegian Red Cross on the occasion of its annual fund raising ; also in September, Mr. F. Siordet, member of the ICRC, and Mr. J.-P. Schoenholzer, of the Legal Department, visited the Greek Red Cross in Athens, where they took part in a congress of the International Office of Military Medicine Documentation ; in the following month, Mr. H. Coursier, of the Legal Department, and Mr. H. G. Beckh, delegate, also visited the Greek Red Cross ; in November, Mr. J.-G. Lossier, editor of the *International Review of the Red Cross*, represented the ICRC at the opening of the new headquarters of the Red Cross of Monaco ; in the same month, during their mission to the GPRA (see p. 20), Miss M. van Berchem, member of the ICRC, and Mr. P. Gaillard, delegate, visited the Tunisian Red Crescent ; also in November, the ICRC, in response to an invitation from the

German Red Cross in the Federal Republic of Germany, was represented by one of its members, Brigade Colonel H. Meuli, former chief of the Swiss Army Medical Services, at an important meeting of doctors specializing in radiation, in Munich.

The ICRC was also visited by several directors of National Societies. Amongst them (in chronological order) : Mr. D. S. Choi, President of the Republic of Korea National Red Cross ; Mr. P. Canon, President of the provisional Committee of the Congolese Red Cross in Leopoldville ; Mrs. Tom Barry, Chairman of the Irish Red Cross ; Dr. W. Weitbrecht, Vice-President of the German Red Cross in the German Democratic Republic ; Dr. H. Weitz, President of the German Red Cross in the Federal Republic of Germany and Dr. Bargatzky, Vice-President ; Dr. Abou Qoura, Secretary General of the Jordan Red Crescent ; Mrs. I. Doman-ska, President of the Polish Red Cross ; Mr. Arne Fremm, Director General of the Danish Red Cross ; Professor Leonardo de Castro Freire, President, and Colonel José Victor Mateus Cabral, Secretary-General of the Portuguese Red Cross ; Mr. François Silou, first Vice-President of the Congolese Red Cross (Leopoldville) ; Dr. Chadli Zouiten, Vice-President, and Mr. Salah Boulakbèche, Secretary-General of the Tunisian Red Crescent ; Ambassador Kay Keoulouangkhot, Vice-President of the Laotian Red Cross ; Dr. T. Calasanz, Director of the Philippine National Red Cross.

### **The Red Cross Centenary**

In 1961, in co-operation with the entire Red Cross world, and particularly with the League and the Swiss Red Cross, the ICRC continued the preparatory work for the celebrations which, in August and September 1963, will mark the Centenary of the Red Cross. To ensure the success of the commemorative ceremonies which will coincide with the XXth International Conference of the Red Cross, the three institutions have set up a commission which includes, besides representatives of the ICRC, the League and the Swiss Red Cross, representatives of the Swiss and Genevese authorities. The President is Mr. Frédéric Siordet, Vice-President of the ICRC. The commission has appointed Mr. Edouard J. Logoz secretary-general, and the ICRC has placed offices at his disposal.

Various sub-committees and working groups are also dealing with the different aspects of the Centenary celebrations. One of the most difficult tasks is the preparation of the large Exhibition which will retrace the history of the Red Cross, show its principal activities in the service of humanity and explain the missions which it has on hand at the moment.

The contacts established with circles outside the Red Cross, particularly with the Press, have shown that the organization of the Centenary enjoys the solid support of public opinion.

### **Administration of funds**

The ICRC administers a number of funds whose revenues are intended to be used for humanitarian purposes. In 1961, the Joint Commission detailed to distribute the revenues from the Empress Shôken Fund (comprising representatives of the ICRC, the League and the Japanese Red Cross) distributed 13,000 francs as follows : 5,000 francs to the Burma Red Cross, 6,000 francs to the Indonesian Red Cross and 2,000 francs to the South African Red Cross.

### **Florence Nightingale Medal**

Every two years, the ICRC has the duty of awarding the Florence Nightingale Medal to nurses and voluntary aids who have distinguished themselves exceptionally by their devotion and, in 1961, it awarded this distinction to thirty-four candidates. These had been put forward by the National Red Cross Societies of the following nineteen countries : Australia, Chile, Denmark, Federal Republic of Germany, Finland, Great Britain, India, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, Philippines, Poland, Sweden, Union of South Africa, United States and the U.S.S.R.

## **RELATIONS WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS**

### **United Nations**

As in previous years the ICRC remained in close contact with the various international organizations, particularly those whose