

# Inter-Red Cross Relations

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by an audience with His Holiness Paul VI. The Association's President is Mr. H. Coursier, Adviser in the Legal Department of the ICRC, and it is sponsored by the Prince Francis Joseph of Liechtenstein Foundation.

### **Legal Assistance**

The ICRC has continued to give support to the International Centre for Co-ordination of Legal Aid, a body affiliated to the International Council of Voluntary Agencies, which operates from the ICRC building in liaison with the ICRC legal department. This Centre is the scene of close co-operation between the Voluntary Agencies and the U.N. Commissioner for Refugees.

During his mission in Latin America<sup>1</sup>, Mr. Jequier, a delegate of the ICRC, gave his attention to reviving the interest of the Venezuelan Red Cross in legal assistance to indigent refugees and stateless persons, in conformity with the conclusions of the International Conference of the Red Cross at Stockholm in 1948.

Thanks to Mr. Jequier's efforts, and the able backing of the Venezuelan Red Cross, a number of lawyers agreed to contact the Centre with a view to granting free legal aid to the needy, under the Centre's auspices.

## **INTER-RED CROSS RELATIONS**

The Centenary Year provided the ICRC with many opportunities to maintain and develop its normal contacts with National Societies.

### **Recognition of New National Societies**

Within the purview of its statutory terms of reference, the ICRC recognized twelve new National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in 1963.

At its plenary session on July 4, the Committee pronounced its official recognition of the National Societies of Malaya, Cameroon, Congo (Leopoldville) and Algeria. Similarly, on August 8, it officially

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<sup>1</sup> See pp. 34-35.

recognized those of the Ivory Coast, Senegal, Trinidad and Tobago, Tanganyika and Saudi Arabia. The last mentioned and Algeria adopted the red crescent emblem ; the other ten the red cross. On August 22, the eve of the Centenary Congress, the ICRC recognized the Red Cross Society of Dahomey and of Malagasy, thus bringing to 102 the total of recognized National Societies.

### **The Empress Shôken Fund**

In 1963 the Joint Commission for the distribution of income from the Empress Shôken Fund (comprising representatives of the ICRC, the League and the Japanese Red Cross) decided to allocate Sw.frs. 9,000 in the following manner : Sw.frs. 4,000 to the Burma Red Cross, to complete the equipment of its Rangoon blood bank, and Sw.frs. 5,000 to the Republic of Korea Red Cross as a contribution towards X-ray equipment for its hospital in Choon-Chon.

### **Presentation of the ICRC's Medal to National Societies**

On the occasion of the Centenary of its foundation, the International Committee of the Red Cross decided to present its silver-gilt medal to all National Societies as a mark of their common bond with the founder institution of the movement.

This gesture elicited a warm tribute from all National Societies, great and small, old and new, in every continent, together with an expression of universal loyalty to Red Cross principles.

### **Miscellaneous Missions and Events**

All the various missions undertaken by the ICRC President, members and delegates, and which are related in this Report, included visits to, and often, as has been stressed, active co-operation with local National Societies.

Most Societies made a point of describing in detail to the ICRC the events organized in their respective countries to celebrate the Centenary and the *International Review of the Red Cross* published several articles devoted to such events. We might mention, for instance, the articles on the Centenary celebrations in Greece, Iran, Luxemburg, Uruguay and Ghana.

Of the messages of good wishes and congratulations received by the ICRC, several came from Sovereigns and other Heads of State, the highest Red Cross patrons in various countries. For instance, the Queen of the Netherlands, the Queen of Thailand and Princess Grace of Monaco, expressed their personal attachment to the work of the Red Cross.

In London, from May 8-10, Mr. M. Bodmer, Vice-President of the ICRC, and Mr. R. Gallopin, Executive Director, attended the impressive events organized by the British Red Cross, in the presence of H.M. Queen Elizabeth and H.R.H. the Duke of Edinburgh.

In France the main Centenary celebration took place under the chairmanship of the Head of the State and the ICRC President was personally invited.

Several conferences were given by delegates of the ICRC at the request of local Red Cross Committees, thus associating the International Committee with the events, even local, organized by militant Red Cross workers. We might mention by way of example Mr. Pictet's lecture in Liège on September 15, Miss Pfirter's in Kassel on October 9, and Mr. Coursier's at Pontarlier on October 14.

In Stuttgart, on October 30, Mr. Carl-J. Burckhardt, member and former President of the ICRC, took part in the events organized to commemorate the birth of the first National Society for Aid to Military Wounded, i.e. the Württemberg Red Cross.

The award of the Florence Nightingale Medal brought forth from the recipients and the National Societies honoured through them, expressions of fidelity to the ICRC and the Red Cross movement. For the National Society of Liberia this was a special occasion ; the first award of the medal to an African national.

## **RELATIONS WITH INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS**

### **The ICRC's relations with the U.N. and its specialized Agencies**

The ICRC has maintained close contact with the United Nations Organization and its Specialized Agencies, particularly with the Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees and the World Health Organization.