

Inter-Red Cross Relations

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of the ICRC staff and they acquired an insight into the institution's activities in time of war.

The cause of the Geneva Conventions also found support in the nursing world. The XIIIth Quadriennial Congress of the International Council of Nurses in Frankfurt-on-Main last June unanimously passed the following statement for inclusion in the "International Code of Nursing Ethics": "It is important that all nurses be aware of the principles of the Red Cross and their rights and obligations under the Geneva Conventions of 1949". On that occasion, the ICRC, the guardian of the Red Cross principles and promoter of the Geneva Conventions, received, through its representative at the Congress, expressions of goodwill from the participants.

We would also mention that, in April, Mr. Jean Pictet, ICRC Director for General Affairs, gave his inaugural lecture at the University of Geneva, which had just created the first chair of international humanitarian law. This welcome innovation gave Mr. Pictet, who has served the institution since 1937, and who is known for a number of publications relating to Red Cross doctrine and the Geneva Conventions, a further opportunity to expound to a select audience on these humanitarian treaties.

In June a paper by Mr. Pictet, entitled "Les Conventions de Genève, Charte de la médecine aux armées" was presented by Mr. R.-J. Wilhelm, Adviser, Legal Department, to the IIIrd International Advanced Course for Junior Military Surgeons which took place in Madrid (May 31 - June 10) under the chairmanship of Brigade-Colonel H. Meuli, member of the ICRC. One of the aims of this course was to instil into the minds of these young doctors from 26 countries the principles of the humanitarian conventions and of the neutrality of medicine in time of armed conflict.

INTER-RED CROSS RELATIONS

Apart from the opportunity presented by the XXth International Conference for reinforcing ties with all the institutions of the Red Cross, the ICRC has maintained close connections with National Societies and their federation, the League. It continued to have

monthly meetings with the latter for the joint study of topical problems. The two organizations agreed to set up "a joint working party for the study of National Society structures and activities". The competence of both institutions in this respect is recognized in article IV, paras. 2-3 and article VII of the International Red Cross Statutes, articles 6-9 of the Constitution of the League of Red Cross Societies, and Resolution No. V of the 1948 meeting of the Board of Governors. This working party intends to study the bye-laws, structure, organization and activities of all National Societies and to make any recommendations which may be necessary. As there was insufficient time to submit a report on this subject to the XXth International Conference, the working party expects to make the results of its research and the conclusions it has reached known to the XXIst International Conference of the Red Cross.

In June 1965, Miss A. Pfirter, Head of the Medical Personnel Section, represented the ICRC at the 17th session of the Nursing Advisory Committee of the League, which studies new nursing needs among National Red Cross Societies.

In addition, in agreement with the League, the ICRC has undertaken completely to revise the *Handbook of the International Red Cross*. This new edition, bringing up-to-date that issued in 1953, should be off the press before the end of 1966.

Official Recognition

In 1965 the ICRC officially recognized two National Red Cross Societies, namely those of Uganda (on September 2) and Niger (on December 2). The number of officially recognized Societies thus rose to 106.

National Societies

Apart from the work accomplished collectively at the Vienna Conference, the ICRC was constantly in touch with National Red Cross, Red Crescent and Red Lion and Sun Societies. No opportunity to cement relations was overlooked. Not only was the International Committee pleased to welcome representatives of many National Societies but it too, in the person of its delegates and sometimes of its President, paid them a number of visits.

In January, Mr. S. Gonard, ICRC President, visited the Red Cross Society of Ceylon. In the course of a second tour in Asia, he visited the Red Cross Societies of Pakistan, India, Thailand, Philippines, Japan and the Republic of Korea. He was accompanied by Mr. André Durand, delegate. He had important discussions with the leaders of those National Societies and he was given an insight into their activities. In each country the President was received by the Head of the State and high government officials.

In June Mr. Gonard went to Mexico, accompanied by Mr. Pierre Jequier, delegate-general for Latin America. He visited the National Red Cross Society and was received by the President of the Republic. He also went to Washington where, accompanied by Mr. Pierre Basset, Head of the ICRC Administration, he had important discussions with the heads of the American National Red Cross and with United States Government representatives.

The ICRC President also undertook other missions abroad. In July he visited the Red Cross Society of the Federal Republic of Germany at that Society's invitation. He was accompanied by Mr. Herbert G. Beckh, delegate, and Mr. René-Jean Wilhelm, Adviser, Legal Department. After being given a warm welcome by the leaders of the Red Cross Society, he was received by the President of the Republic. He then left for Vienna, with Mr. Claude Pilloud, ICRC Deputy Director for General Affairs, where he met the leaders of the Austrian Red Cross who were preparing to receive the participants in the XXth International Conference of the Red Cross.

In October, the ICRC President, accompanied by Mr. Melchior Borsinger, Secretary to the Presidency, accepted an invitation from the Irish Red Cross and attended the Society's Triennial Convention. Mr. Gonard was received by the President of the Republic and the Prime Minister.

Other members of the ICRC also went on mission to National Societies. In June Mr. Dietrich Schindler represented the institution at the Assembly of Swiss Red Cross Delegates at Waldhaus. In the same month, Mr. Jacques Freymond represented the Committee at the Portuguese Red Cross Centenary celebrations in Lisbon.

At the end of August, Mr. Frédéric Siordet took advantage of a trip to Moscow to visit the Alliance of Red Cross and Red Crescent

Societies of the USSR. On his return journey he stopped off at Warsaw and Prague to contact the Polish and Czech Red Cross Societies.

The ICRC was represented at the Norwegian Red Cross Centenary in Oslo in September by Mr. Hans Bachmann and in the following month Mr. Siordet undertook a similar mission in Stockholm for the Swedish Red Cross Centenary.

Other ICRC representatives visited several National Societies and were frequently in touch with them in the course of various missions. Mr. H. G. Beckh, delegate, for instance was welcomed most cordially by the Red Cross Societies of the Federal Republic of Germany, the Democratic Republic of Germany, Bulgaria, Rumania, Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia and Austria.

The ICRC itself had the pleasure of welcoming a number of National Society representatives to its headquarters. Among these visitors were the following National Society Presidents : General Collins, of the American Red Cross ; Dr. Giuseppe Potenza, of the Italian Red Cross ; Mr. Johannes Frandsen, of the Danish Red Cross ; Mr. Barroso Chavéz, of the Mexican Red Cross ; Mr. Eardley Button, of the New Zealand Red Cross ; Mr. Rito Alcantara, of the Senegalese Red Cross ; Mr. Kawanishi, of the Japanese Red Cross.

In addition, two National Societies have accredited permanent representatives to the Red Cross international institutions, namely : the Moroccan Red Crescent, in the person of Dr. Abdelkader Laraoui, Ambassador in Berne and former National Society Secretary-General ; and the Jordan Red Crescent in the person of Mr. Ibrahim Zreikat, former staff member of the ICRC.

Shôken Fund

The Joint Commission for the distribution of income from the Empress Shôken Fund met in Geneva on March 18, 1965. It comprises representatives of the ICRC, the League and the Japanese Red Cross.

The Commission examined applications for awards under the forty-fourth distribution. Mindful of the drawbacks of small allocations inadequate to finance projects, it made awards to two of the

Societies which had lodged applications. The sums granted were higher than any previously awarded, viz: Sw. fr. 10,000 to the Red Cross of the Congo for the purchase of a jeep-ambulance; and Sw. fr. 12,000 to the Syrian Red Crescent for a vehicle designed for collection of blood donations.

Florence Nightingale Medal.—The special commission set up by the ICRC for deciding every second year the award of Florence Nightingale Medals to nurses and voluntary aids who have distinguished themselves by exceptional devotion to the wounded and sick, approved twenty-seven of the candidates put forward for this high distinction by fifteen National Societies. The successful candidates were:

Home Sister-in-Charge Miss Lucy Wise MacIntosh, Matron Mary Dorothy Edis (Australia); Mrs. Ines Yuraszek Cantin de Schmidt (Chile); Mrs. Anna Knapcokova (Czechoslovakia); Mrs. Lilia de Vendeuvre (France); Sister-in-Charge Gertrud Baltzer, Sister Irène von Scheel (German Federal Republic); Mrs. Mary Folke (Great Britain); Miss Irène Komarik (Hungary); Lt. Col. F. St-Claire Watkins (India); Miss Kikuyo Uchiyama, Miss Kyio Ushioda and Miss Kise Makita (Japan); Mrs. Chung-Sun Kim and Mrs. Bo-Shin Lo (Republic of Korea); Miss Muriel Jessie Jackson (New Zealand); Major Honorata P. Seraspi, Miss Balisia Hernando, Mrs. Maria M. Concepcion (Philippines); Mrs. Wadyslawa Steffen and Mrs. Luba Blem-Bielicka (Poland); Miss Victoria M. Freeman (South African Republic); Miss Marie Dmitrievna Serdiouk, Mrs. Faïna Khoussaïnovna Tchanycheva, Mrs. Z. Mikhailovna Touss-nolobova Martchenko, Mrs. M. Savelievn Chkarletova and Miss Agnia Ivanovna Khablova (USSR).

RELATIONS WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

The ICRC has kept constantly in touch with the United Nations Organization and its specialized agencies, its contacts with which, based on mutual confidence, were strengthened by the visits exchanged by the ICRC President and the U.N. Secretary-General.