

Radio Communications

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Conventions among medical personnel ” and “ Civil Protection — Actions of National Societies ”. The November issue gave the full text of the resolutions adopted by the XXth International Conference in Vienna, as well as a summary of the main topics dealt with by the Conference. A number of articles were devoted to the Junior Red Cross, for example “ The Child — Pillar of the Future ” by Dr. G. Sicault, and several contributions on the World Red Cross Day theme for 1965, “ Youth — Tomorrow’s Strength Today ”.

Topical events and the work of the ICRC in many countries are described each month in the regular feature entitled “ External Activities ”. This gives a brief account of missions abroad, for instance in Vietnam, the Congo, Cyprus, India and Pakistan. The *Review* also gave various reports on the hospital set up by the ICRC at Uqhd in the desert as well as on the medical teams and their relief work in the Yemen.

A new feature, “ In the Red Cross World ”, was introduced in the *Review* in 1965. It is illustrated and contains news from National Societies on their activities or accounts of particularly important or original tasks undertaken by our movement in many countries. For instance, reports were given on the work of the Red Cross in South America and Africa, where the scope for humanitarian activities is vast. In addition, several National Societies sent the *Review* accounts of events in their respective countries to celebrate the centenary of their foundations.

The efforts to promote circulation over the last few years are beginning to bear fruit ; output of both the French and the English editions has had to be increased. The Spanish and German supplements contained a number of important articles, particularly those on dissemination of knowledge on the Geneva Conventions. Readers also found them a source of information on ICRC activities and missions throughout the world.

RADIO COMMUNICATIONS

The ICRC’s radio station continued to be of enormous service. Professional both in equipment and operation, it was in daily contact with the Uqhd field hospital in the North of the Yemen, which

was itself in radio contact with the ICRC delegations at Sanaa and Jeddah.

The communication network was maintained until the beginning of 1966. The last message, sent on February 3, was the one sent by the President of the ICRC to the operators, in which he said: " ... after two years of daily communication which has contributed enormously to the success of the mission undertaken by the International Committee of the Red Cross, I have pleasure in extending my congratulations for the efficiency you have displayed and in expressing the ICRC's gratitude for your loyal service ".

This experiment demonstrated the usefulness of radio communication in certain Red Cross international relief actions. The joint work of the ICRC and the League in this field must be mentioned. At the beginning of 1965 they sent all National Societies a circular informing them of the progress achieved and reminding them of the possibilities offered by Recommendation No. 34 of the Administrative Radio Conference. The International Telecommunications Union gave support to this circular in a message to the authorities of the various countries.

The ICRC then undertook a series of bilateral link trials with the stations of National Societies. These trials, involving radio contact at specific times with stations all over the world, are still going on. It has already been demonstrated that equipment to increase appreciably the effectiveness of Red Cross humanitarian activities is not beyond the movement's modest financial resources.