

# Relations with Red Cross Institutions

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1969 the meeting of experts which it had envisaged and to which it desired to submit the main problems of reaffirming and developing the laws and customs applicable in armed conflicts.

## **The Red Cross as a Factor in World Peace**

A second Round Table on this subject was to be held on 9 and 10 September 1968. It was intended to follow up the meeting of the same nature held in The Hague on 28 August 1967. However, in view of the conflicts and tensions prevailing at the time and the increased tasks accruing to some of the persons invited to that meeting, the majority of participants considered it preferable to postpone it. Whilst acquiescing, the ICRC was pleased to note that the participants reaffirmed their interest for this work and the necessity of continuing it before the XXIst International Conference of the Red Cross took place, in order to be able to submit to the meeting at Istanbul certain concrete proposals. It was therefore decided to convene the second Round Table for January 1969.

## **2. RELATIONS WITH RED CROSS INSTITUTIONS**

### **Recognition of new National Societies**

In the course of 1968, the ICRC officially recognized the Kuwait Red Crescent on 6 June and the Guyana Red Cross on 8 August. The number of officially recognized National Societies thus rose to 111.

### **National Societies**

In June, Mr. Samuel A. Gonard, ICRC President, went to Engelberg to attend the General Meeting of the Swiss Red Cross.

Towards the end of September, he spent a week in Italy where he met the President of the Republic, Mr. Giuseppe Saragat, and the Minister of Foreign Affairs. He was also received in audience

by His Holiness Pope Paul VI and also by the Prince and Grand Master of the Order of Malta, Fra Angelo de Mojana, in the presence of the Grand Chancellor and Minister of Foreign Affairs. At Italian Red Cross headquarters, Mr. Gonard was received by Mr. Giuseppe Potenza, General President.

At the end of November, Mr. Gonard went to Luxembourg on an official visit to the Luxembourg Red Cross. He was received by Grand Duke John of Luxembourg, Prince Felix, President of the National Society, Mr. Chomé and Mr. Neuman, Vice-Presidents, and Mr. Knaff, Director. Mr. Gonard also met the President of the Government, Mr. Pierre Werner, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Minister of Public Health.

During a private trip to Dakar in December, Mr. Gonard was received by the President of the Senegalese Republic, Mr. Leopold Senghor. He also visited the President of the Senegalese Red Cross, Mr. Rito Alcantara.

Mr. Siordet, Vice-President, represented the ICRC at the American Red Cross Convention in Denver on 5 May 1968.

In June, Mr. Bachmann, ICRC Vice-President, went to Frankfurt to attend the General Meeting of the German Red Cross in the Federal Republic of Germany.

At the same time Mr. Gallopin, Member and Director-General of the ICRC, went to Czechoslovakia, the German Democratic Republic and Poland, at the invitation of the National Societies of those three countries. In Czechoslovakia, where he was received by the President of the National Society, Colonel-Doctor Kuchar, Mr. Gallopin visited several Czechoslovak branches, and had discussions with the Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Minister of Health. In the German Democratic Republic, Mr. Gallopin was received in Dresden by Professor W. Ludwig, President of the National Red Cross Society. Then, accompanied by Mr. J. Hengst, the National Society's Secretary-General, he went to the Berlin branch. In Poland, after having been received by Dr. I. Domanska, President of the Polish Red Cross, Mr. Gallopin went to various Voïvodships where he gave talks on the main aspects of ICRC action. He also had discussions with the Head of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Vice-Minister for Culture and Art, and the Minister of Commerce.

In October, Mr. Gallopin spent a week in Lagos. He had discussions with the Head of the Federation of Nigeria, Major-General Gowon, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and other government officials, as well as with the President of the Nigeria Red Cross Society, Sir Adetokunbo Ademola and his Chairman, Chief S. Ade Ojo. All these conversations were related to ICRC activity in Nigeria.

At the beginning of December, Mr. Ruegger, Member of the ICRC, together with Mr. Borsinger, Secretary to the Presidency, went to London for discussions with the British Government on the latter's response to the appeal launched by the ICRC in favour of war victims in Nigeria. They were received at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs by the Prime Minister, Mr. Harold Wilson, and some of his senior officials. Mr. Ruegger and Mr. Borsinger took advantage of their presence in London to have discussions with the Countess of Limerick, Chairman of the International Red Cross Standing Commission, and with Dame Ann Bryans, Vice-Chairman of the Executive Committee.

In response to the invitation from the Haiti Red Cross on the occasion of the inauguration of its new headquarters, donated by Dr. Duvalier, President of the Republic, the ICRC was represented by Mr. Gaillard, Assistant Director. He stayed a short while in Port-au-Prince, in mid-December, and had interesting discussions with members of the Haiti Red Cross Steering Committee presided over by Dr. Laroche.

In October, Mr. Wilhelm, Assistant Director, went to Belgrade to attend the funeral of Dr. Herćog, one of the two delegates killed in Biafra on 30 September. Mr. Fischer, liaison officer with National Societies, escorted to Stockholm the mortal remains of the other victim, Mr. Carlsson.

Apart from the missions by various of its members to National Societies in 1968, the ICRC had the pleasure of receiving in Geneva a number of notable figures of the Red Cross world. For instance, on 4 April, the ICRC had the honour to welcome at its headquarters H. M. Olaf V, King of Norway and patron of the Norwegian Red Cross. On 10 June, the ICRC's guest was H. R. H. the Prince of Liège, President of the Belgian Red Cross, accompanied by Mr. Raymond Lemaire, Vice-President.

Many Presidents, Secretaries-General and members of National Societies visited the ICRC in the course of the year, particularly during the 87th session of the League's Executive Committee. On that occasion, the ICRC invited all Red Cross delegates to a talk on its activities on 3 September.

## **ICRC—League Co-operation**

The International Red Cross Council of Delegates at The Hague on 6-8 September 1967 adopted, inter alia, the following resolution:

The Council of Delegates,

Considering the important changes during the two last decades in the conditions for international Red Cross work,

Referring to the increasingly recognised and respected need to accelerate the development of Red Cross activities and their co-ordination,

Requests the International Committee of the Red Cross and the League to consider a revision of the Agreement of December 8th, 1951, in order to obtain a fully co-ordinated effect of the knowledge and capabilities of both organizations in the different situations where Red Cross action is required.

In compliance, representatives of the two international institutions of the Red Cross met on a number of occasions since November 1967 with a view to revising the " Agreement between the International Committee of the Red Cross and the League of Red Cross Societies for the purpose of specifying certain of their respective functions ", signed on 8 December 1951.

Pending the entry into force of such a new Agreement, and in view of the urgent need to define some arrangements for their co-operation in relief to civilian populations, the ICRC Directorate and the League Secretariat, on 23 December 1968, signed the following provisional protocol:

## PROTOCOL

Recent experience in the field of relief to civilian populations has shown that it is necessary for the International Committee of the Red Cross and the League of Red Cross Societies to strengthen their present procedure for information, consultation and co-operation. In the spirit of Article VIII of the Statutes of the International Red Cross and pending the conclusion of a new Agreement to replace that of 1951, the Directorate of the ICRC and the League Secretariat have accordingly agreed to put into force, on a trial basis as from 1 January 1969, the following provisions.

### *Article 1*

When the ICRC and the League are called upon to co-operate in the field of relief to the civilian population, the necessary machinery shall immediately be established, both in Geneva and the territories concerned, to ensure maximum efficiency and unity in the action of all the members of the International Red Cross: ICRC, League and National Societies.

As each situation will inevitably present different conditions, the respective spheres of activity of the ICRC, the League and National Societies in the territories concerned should be clearly laid down, from case to case, by the co-ordination body provided for in the next Article.

### *Article 2*

The Directorate of the ICRC and the League Secretariat shall each appoint two delegates and two deputies who should at all times be able to meet without delay and who shall have the task:

- a) of informing each other on the approaches made to their Institutions and on the conduct of the actions under way. The communications addressed by National Societies to one of the Institutions and which concern the other within the terms of the Statutes of the International Red Cross shall be passed on to it without delay;
- b) of taking—in accordance with the Statutes of the International Red Cross and the principles of the 1951 Agreement—all the necessary decisions to ensure an immediate intervention of the Red Cross and the speedy conduct of relief actions;
- c) of entrusting the execution of a given action to one of the two international Institutions without, however, excluding—if this seems advisable—a joint action the ways and means of which should then be clearly defined.

The fact that a National Society submits a request to the ICRC or the League or spontaneously donates relief to them shall not change the distribution of the tasks between the two Institutions.

National Societies shall be regularly informed of the decisions taken in accordance with the above-mentioned provisions.

## Preparation for the XXIst International Conference of the Red Cross

Mr. Pilloud, Director and Mr. Regenass, Head of ICRC Administration, went several times, in company with League representatives, to Turkey to study in co-operation with the leaders of the Turkish Red Crescent Society problems related to the organization of the XXIst International Conference of the Red Cross which will take place in Istanbul from 6 to 13 September 1969.

Already in 1968 various ICRC departments started preparation of reports which the ICRC will submit to the Conference.

### Augusta Fund

The ICRC *ad hoc* Committee for the management of the Augusta Fund and the distribution of its revenue met on 16 May 1968 and decided to distribute from the available amount of Sw. frs. 13,720,70 a total of Sw. frs. 13,500. This will consist of grants to:

- the Cameroon Red Cross, towards the purchase of an ambulance: Sw. frs. 3,000.—
- the Kenyan Red Cross, towards the improvement of a home for handicapped children: Sw. frs. 3,000.—
- the Moroccan Red Crescent, towards the expense of a home for sucklings and premature babies: Sw. frs. 3,000.—
- the Senegalese Red Cross, towards a milk distribution centre, courses in first-aid and maternity care: Sw. frs. 4,500.—

The ICRC has advised the Societies awarded these grants at the same time as it made the money available to them.

## **Clara R. Benedict Fund**

Miss Clara R. Benedict, an American citizen, died in Lucerne (Switzerland) on 31 October 1961. In her will, Miss Benedict bequeathed a large part of her estate to the ICRC to set up a foundation from which the revenue should be used in favour of war victims of all nations.

Formalities for liquidation of the estate lasted so long that it was not until the beginning of 1967 that the ICRC received the funds intended for it. The accounts for this Fund as at the end of 1967 and the end of 1968 are to be found on page 98.

Revenue in 1967, i.e. \$32,068.30 was assigned to the ICRC's relief work in Vietnam, whilst in 1968, \$40,000 of revenue was assigned to relief of victims of the war in the Near East.

### **3. RELATIONS WITH INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS**

#### **UNO and its Specialized Agencies**

During the past year, the ICRC has maintained its relations with the United Nations Organization at its headquarters in New York and its European office in Geneva.

Mr. Samuel A. Gonard, President of the ICRC, and Mr. R. Gallopin, Member of the ICRC and Director-General, paid a visit to U Thant, Secretary-General of UNO, when he passed through Geneva on 5 April 1968. In July Mr. Gonard, accompanied by Mr. J. Pictet, Member of the ICRC and Director-General and Mr. P. Basset, Assistant Director, had further talks in Geneva with U Thant.

From 8 July to 2 August Mr. C. Pilloud, Mr. F. de Reynold and Mr. Vodoz took part, as observers, in the session of the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations. Mr. Pilloud, Director, followed the discussions of the UN General Assembly held in New York from 3 November to 12 December.

On 10 October 1968, Mr. de Reynold represented the ICRC at the ceremony organized by the UN High Commission for Refugees