Information

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Information

Information from the field

Direct coverage of ICRC activities in the field focused mainly on southern Africa. An information team travelled to Mozambique, South Africa, and Namibia/South West Africa, bringing back texts and photographs for the Movement's various publications, and a special edition of the ICRC *Bulletin* published in five languages was devoted to the institution's operations in Mozambique.

The information delegate in Pakistan made several contributions to ICRC and outside publications, while keeping interested members of the international and Pakistan press informed of the activities carried out in connection with the Afghan conflict.

Information from headquarters

Along with the monthly ICRC *Bulletin,* various other means of information were used to keep the interested public abreast of the institution's work. During the year, about forty press releases informed the media of major events affecting the ICRC. Moreover, many radio and television interviews were given by the institution's press officers and heads of various areas of activity.

A steady flow of information was maintained to the National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies to enable them to reply to media enquiries in their countries. About fifty telexes were sent to update them on operations in major trouble areas — Angola, El Salvador, Ethiopia, and Sri Lanka — and in connection with the Afghan conflict and the war between Iraq and Iran. They also received seven information folders containing documents, photographs and slides on ICRC operations in Ecuador, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Lebanon, Mozambique, Namibia/South West Africa, and South Africa.

Lastly, as part of the information campaign to mark the Movement's 125th anniversary, the ICRC and the League prepared promotional material for use in the national information programmes being mounted by all Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. A broad outline of the programme of events to celebrate the birth of the Red Cross was formally presented to the members of the Movement at the Council of Delegates in Rio de Janeiro in November 1987. On this occasion, participants approved the set of measures proposed by the League and the ICRC as a fitting commemoration for the anniversary.

Publications

In 1987, the ICRC promoted its publications with an innovative spirit.

For the first time, the institution took an active part in two major book fairs. In May it displayed a selection of books and periodicals at the first International Fair for Books and Press in Geneva, and in October it had a stand at the Frankfurt Book Fair.

To make its publications better known, the ICRC issued a new catalogue of Selected Publications with illustrations showing the covers of the works presented and a brief description of their contents. This catalogue, which is not exhaustive, was published in English and French. The ICRC moreover did its utmost to publish its works in languages other than English, French and Spanish; increasing importance was thus attached to Arabic, German and Portuguese. The catalogue lists only works published in Geneva. However, various delegations also produced brochures and other publications.

Besides the actual publishing, the ICRC played a big part in distributing its works. In 1987 it distributed throughout the world, in various languages:

105,000 copies of the comic strip *History of the Red Cross and Red Crescent;*

60,000 copies of *Presenting the ICRC;*

43,000 copies of *Rules for Behaviour in Combat;*

30,000 copies of the new *Red Cross and Red Crescent: Portrait of an International Movement,* published in November 1987;

20,000 copies of *The ICRC Worldwide;*

18,000 copies of *Origin and Development of International Humanitarian Law;*

12,000 copies of *Summary of the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 and their Additional Protocols;*

8,000 copies of *Basic Rules of the Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols;*

5,000 copies of the new *Selected Publications* catalogue;

3,000 copies of *The Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949;*

3,000 copies of *The Protocols Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949.*

In 1987 the ICRC issued the following publications:

- ☐ *International Review of the Red Cross* (two-monthly publication in English, French, Spanish and an abridged German-language version; one issue in Arabic).
- ☐ *ICRC Bulletin* (monthly publication in English, French, German and Spanish).
- ☐ *ICRC Bulletin, Special Edition: Mozambique 87.* (English, French, German, Portuguese and Spanish).
- ☐ *Dissemination* (magazine published in English, French, German, Spanish and Arabic).
- ☐ *The ICRC Worldwide 1986* (English, French, German, Spanish and Arabic).
- ☐ *Annual Report 1986* (English, French, German, Spanish and Arabic).
- ☐ Kalshoven, Frits: *Constraints on the Waging of War.*
- ☐ *Commentary on the Additional Protocols of 8 June 1977 to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949* (English and French).
- ☐ *The Empress Shôken Fund — 75 years of Service to Humanity* (English, French and Spanish).
- ☐ *Third Programme of Action of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement with respect to dissemination of international humanitarian law and of the principles and ideals of the Movement* (English, French, German, Spanish and Arabic).
- ☐ *Index of International Humanitarian Law.*
- ☐ De Mulinen, Frédéric: *Handbook on the Law of War for Armed Forces.*
- ☐ *The Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949* (Arabic and Spanish versions, translated and published by the ICRC).
- ☐ Central Tracing Agency (CTA). *Guide for National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies* (German and Portuguese versions).
- ☐ *Central Tracing Agency of the ICRC* — leaflet (English, French, German, Spanish, Portuguese and Arabic.
- ☐ *Central Tracing Agency of the ICRC* — illustrated brochure (Portuguese version).
- ☐ *The ICRC and the Disabled* (Arabic and Portuguese versions).
- ☐ Singer, Sandra: *The Protection of Children during Armed Conflict Situations* (Arabic version) — offprint from the *Review.*
- ☐ *Twenty-fifth International Conference of the Red Cross, Geneva 1986. Resolutions of the International Conference and of the Council of Delegates* (English, French and Spanish) — offprint from the *Review.*
- ☐ *Statutes and Rules of Procedure of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement,* adopted by the Twenty-fifth International Conference of the Red Cross, Geneva, October 1986 (English, French and Spanish) — offprint from the *Review.*
- ☐ *Sassoli, Marco: The National Information Bureau in Aid of the Victims of Armed Conflicts* (English, French and Spanish) offprint from the *Review.*
- ☐ Moreillon, Jacques: *Suspension of the government delegation of the Republic of South Africa at the Twenty-fifth International Conference of the Red Cross — different perceptions of the same event* (English, French and Spanish) — offprint from the *Review.*
- ☐ Blondel, Jean-Luc: *Assistance to Protected Persons* (English, French, German and Spanish) — offprint from the *Review.*
- ☐ Abi-Saab, Rosemary: *The "General Principles" of Humanitarian Law according to the International Court of Justice* (English, French and Spanish) — offprint from the *Review.*
- ☐ Plattner, Denise: *Protection of Children in International Humanitarian Law* (Arabic version) — offprint from the *Review.*
- ☐ Krill, Françoise: *The Protection of Women in International Humanitarian Law* (Arabic version) — offprint from the *Review.*
- ☐ *International Tracing Service, Arolsen* (informative brochure in English, French and German).
- ☐ *International Tracing Service — Concentration Camps, Extermination Camps and Ghettos 1939-1945* (English, French and German).

The following publication was issued jointly with the League:

□ *Red Cross and Red Crescent — Portrait of an International Movement* (English, French, German, Spanish and Arabic).

The following publication was issued by the Henry Dunant Institute, with the assistance of the ICRC:

□ *Bibliography of International Humanitarian Law Applicable in Armed Conflicts. Second edition* (revised and updated).

Also published in 1987:

□ *Twenty-fifth International Conference of the Red Cross: Report* (English, French and Spanish).

Radio programmes

The Red Cross Broadcasting Service (RCBS) continued to transmit its shortwave twice-monthly radio programmes throughout the world in six languages. It broadcast omnidirectionally (on the ICRC frequency of 7210 kHz) in English, French, German and Spanish, and directionally (using air time provided by Swiss Radio International) in English, French, Spanish, Arabic and Portuguese, beaming programmes to Africa, Asia, the Middle East, Latin America and North America. In all, RCBS was on the air for about 100 hours during the year.

Listeners continued demonstrating their interest by sending in letters and radio reception reports, of which about a hundred reached ICRC headquarters each month from all over the world.

About 1,500 listeners regularly received the latest radio schedule. It was also sent to about 200 listeners' clubs worldwide for inclusion in their publications. Contact with listeners' clubs was also maintained by RCBS participation in the annual congress of the European DX Council, which promotes co-operation between DX (long-distance radio) clubs.

In addition to being broadcast by shortwave, recordings of RCBS programmes were sent to the ICRC delegations, about 40 National Societies, and a number of national radio broadcasting services or local radio stations that transmitted them in full or in part.

A programme in Portuguese was sent monthly to ten radio stations, and one in German was produced fortnightly for a New York radio station.

In 1987 a new radio studio was set up at ICRC headquarters, and all RCBS radio programmes are now directed and produced there. They are broadcast free of charge with the technical co-operation of the Swiss Postal and Telecommunications Administration and Swiss Radio International.

As in previous years, RCBS co-operated with the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in preparing for World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day on 8 May. A recording of the message of 8 May was sent to 137 National Societies. In addition, a message specially for 8 May by the President of the ICRC, recorded just after he took office, was sent to the ICRC delegations, National Societies, and various radio stations. Also to mark that date, a report on the ICRC's operations in Angola, co-produced by Radio-France International (RFI) and the ICRC, was broadcast by RFI, and sent to 50 sister radio stations (mostly in Africa) and various National Societies.

Audio-visual activities

In 1987 the Audio-Visual Communication Division (DICA) continued meeting numerous requests both from ICRC departments and delegations, and from National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and the media. The audio-visual material produced (16mm films, video cassettes, photographs, slides and graphics) was used mainly for dissemination and operational information activities.

Four assignments were carried out by ICRC photographers:

□ in *Mozambique (summer 1987)*: ICRC food relief and dissemination activities (press kit for the Movement's 125th anniversary; 150 sets of 18 photographs);

□ in *Pakistan (autumn 1987)*: ICRC medical activities in Peshawar, encompassing hospital services, orthopaedic treatment and care for paraplegics (125th anniversary press kit; 150 sets of 15 photographs);

□ in *South Africa and Namibia/South West Africa (autumn 1987)*: work of community organizers, activities to help Mozambican refugees, and co-operation between the ICRC and the South African Red Cross Society, particularly in dissemination.

A small set of photographs on the theme "Ethiopia — Open Roads for Survival" was ready by year's end, pending completion of a comprehensive report in early 1988. The ICRC media services were considerably improved by DICA's removal to new premises. A large selection room was made available, equipped with illuminated tables for slide viewing, and easily accessible drawers for black and white print viewing. All originals were grouped in a storage place for safekeeping.

The premises also include a new photo laboratory, enabling DICA to fulfil orders more rapidly, and three video viewing rooms.

As in previous years, considerable graphic work was carried out, mainly for the Information Department, by DICA's graphic artist.

ICRC film production in 1987 included an important 16mm film in English on the Central Tracing Agency entitled "Anxious for News". This film, begun in 1986, was produced by DICA and directed by J.D. Bloesch. With great sensitivity, it illustrates the CTA's activity by telling the stories of five individuals living on different continents, each a victim of recent events or past occurrences that still haunt humanity's conscience. Cutting across national, cultural and racial boundaries, it shows the universal similarity, if not identity, of human needs. In addition a French version was made of the 16mm film "To walk, Again", co-produced by the ICRC and the American Red Cross, and directed by L. Fitzgerald in 1986. This version is entitled *"Ils marchent à nouveau"*.

Three other 16mm films were shot in 1987 for completion in 1988:

□ an educational documentary on war surgery;

□ a documentary on National Society medical teams and life in an ICRC hospital;

□ a documentary for and about the International Tracing Service (ITS) in Arolsen.

For the first time, Chinese versions were made of five ICRC-produced 16mm films ("A Plea for Humanity", "The Border People", "United for Humanity", "Light the Darkness" and "What's in a Symbol?").

Video facilities acquired for the news premises include a small TV studio with a professional control room and editing equipment. The following video cassettes were produced in 1987:

□ "Philippines 86: Be Known in Order to Act". Along with its humanitarian activities for victims, displaced or detained persons, the ICRC teaches members of the armed forces and civilians a basic knowledge of international humanitarian law and of the institution's main guidelines for action. (English, French, German and Spanish).

□ "H.E.L.P". A video presenting the H.E.L.P. (Health Emergencies in Large Populations) training course. Organized jointly by the ICRC, the WHO, and the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Geneva, this course is intended for medical and paramedical staff with field experience (English).

□ "Presenting the ICRC", a video for use in exhibitions or as a brief introduction to DICA productions (English), and various internal video newsreels for field delegates were also produced.

Many contacts were made concerning possible co-productions, some of which were planned for 1988.

The International Review of the Red Cross

In 1987, the *International Review of the Red Cross,* the official publication of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement specializing in international humanitarian law and the principles and policies of the Movement, continued to appear every two months in three main editions — English, French and Spanish — and in an abridged German-language version containing a selection of articles printed in the other editions.

A new policy was initiated in 1987 to broaden the *Review's* contents, contributions and readership. Greater emphasis was placed on universality so as to better serve all the Movement's components and faithfully reflect the Movement's policies and activities to outside readers.

The Review further diversified its subject matter to provide greater coverage of the manifold aspects of humanitarian work. It also extended its network of contributors, both within the Movement (particularly the National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies) and without, and enlarged the various sections which make up the publication.

Contributions made in 1987 by university professors, experts, National Society representatives and ICRC staff dealt *inter alia* with "Aspects of dissemination", the "Tenth anniversary of the Protocols additional to the Geneva Conventions" and "Protection and assistance", subjects to which special issues were devoted. In-depth studies were also published on other aspects of humanitarian law such as the "General principles of humanitarian law", the "National Information Bureaux" and the "Legal obstacles to prosecution of breaches of humanitarian law".

Under the new heading "Activities of National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies", six Societies (those of Egypt, France, the Republic of Korea, Spain, the USA and the USSR) contributed articles and reports on outstanding aspects of their activities.

As regards the ICRC, the *Review* covered the appointment of the new President, Mr. Cornelio Sommaruga, paid tribute to the departing President, Mr. Alexandre Hay, and published a study entitled "Controlled expansion" concerning the problems that have affected the ICRC's humanitarian work over the past decade, and honouring the man who headed the institution during that period.

The *Review* continued to analyse the proceedings of the Twenty-fifth International Conference of the Red Cross (Geneva, October 1986) and published an article on the diverse perceptions of the suspension of the government delegation of the Republic of South Africa at that Conference. It also published the new statutes of the Move-

ment, and reported on the meetings of the League's General Assembly and the Council of Delegates in Rio de Janeiro (November 1987).

Considerable space was also devoted to current events through the regular publication of summaries of ICRC activities in Geneva, activities of its delegations worldwide, meetings held, particularly on dissemination, by groups of National Societies in various regions, and by the ICRC, the League and the Henry Dunant Institute, and events organized by other humanitarian institutions.

The *Review* informed readers of the recognition by the ICRC of new National Societies, and of ratifications or accessions to the Protocols additional to the Geneva Conventions that had occurred during the year. It also published synopses of about twenty works dealing with humanitarian law or humanitarian issues.

In October 1987, the *Review* published, for the first time, a special issue in Arabic containing selected articles printed in the other editions and original contributions.

Visits to the ICRC

In 1987, 9,006 persons (members of National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, diplomats, officers, students of nursing schools, vocational or secondary schools) visited ICRC headquarters in Geneva, either in groups or individually. They were given talks on ICRC activities, illustrated by films. Visits were also organized to the Central Tracing Agency.