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Society on February 5 and the Red Cross of the Mongolian People's Republic on September 15.

The ICRC took note of the merging of the Red Crescent Societies of Egypt and Syria which henceforth form one Society—the Red Crescent of the United Arab Republic—of which the National Societies were informed by a circular letter of the ICRC on September 10, 1959.

These recognitions and the merger brought the total number of National Societies officially recognised by the ICRC to 84.

The ICRC also had some contacts with societies to which official recognition has not been granted, in particular the Red Cross of Malaya. During his mission to the Far East Mr. J.-P. Schoenholzer, delegate, paid a visit to this new Society which will take the place of the Malaya Branch of the British Red Cross. He was given a cordial welcome and had useful discussions with the directorate which was waiting to receive the decree of the Government of Malaya in this connection in order to apply for official recognition by the ICRC.

Administration of Funds

During its annual meeting in February 1959, the Joint Commission of the Empress Shôken Fund, which includes representatives of the Japanese Red Cross, the ICRC and the League, allocated to National Societies which had made applications for grants the revenue for 1958 of this Fund, which is administered by the ICRC. The beneficiaries were the National Societies of Belgium, France, Greece, Norway, Pakistan and Tunisia.

RELATIONS OF THE ICRC WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

United Nations

As in former years the ICRC continued to remain in close contact with the United Nations and with those of its specialised agencies whose activities are of special interest to it. Thus it sent observers to the following meetings and conferences held in Geneva :

Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in March, World Health Assembly (May), Economic and Social Council (July), International Telecommunication Union (August-December). The ICRC was also in constant touch with the Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees.

Other organisations

The ICRC maintains relations with some governmental organisations not connected with the United Nations, in particular the International Committee of Military Medicine and Pharmacy and the Intergovernmental Committee for European Migration (ICEM). It remained in touch with non-governmental institutions such as the World Veterans Federation, the International Council of Nurses, the World Medical Association, the International Social Service, the World Council of Churches and the International Committee for World Refugee Year. It continued to take an active part in the work of the Conference of Non-Governmental Organisations interested in Migration ¹.

In July 1959, the Conference was held in New York. The ICRC was represented by Mr. H. Coursier, Member of the Legal Department, who was elected Chairman of the next session to be held in Geneva in 1961. Following this appointment the ICRC made premises available for the Conference Bureau and the International Centre for the Co-ordination of Legal Assistance associated with this body.

The International Committee for World Refugee Year, constituted under the auspices of several charitable organisations, was also provided with premises by the ICRC, which led to considerable saving which should eventually be beneficial for refugees.

INFORMATION AND PUBLICATIONS

Owing to the various activities of the ICRC in 1959, as well as the celebration of the centenary of the Battle of Solferino, the Press

¹ See p. 49.