

Information

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IV. Information

GENERAL

In 1952, the International Committee replied to a steady flow of enquiries concerning its present and past activities. It sent National Red Cross Societies and individuals a great deal of information on the history of the Red Cross and the drawing up of the Geneva Conventions ; furthermore it sent to various newspapers and magazines throughout the world documentation and articles on the work of assistance undertaken by the headquarters at Geneva and by ICRC Delegations outside Switzerland.

A ninth edition of the Red Cross Handbook, published jointly by the ICRC and the League, containing the main general items of information concerning the International Red Cross, and including the text of the four Geneva Conventions of 1949, appeared in July in French, English and Spanish ¹.

A short Note containing information about the International Committee of the Red Cross was compiled in Arabic.

DOCUMENTARY PHOTOGRAPHS EXHIBITION POSTERS

Press documentary photographs and ten posters depicting activities of the International Committee during the last four years were used on various occasions, including the Red Cross Exhibition at Toronto during the sitting of the Conference.

¹ See *Part III*, Chapter I, above, page 59.

CONFERENCES AND FILMS

Several lectures on the ICRC in general or on the Geneva Conventions were given in Switzerland and abroad, in particular by M. Frédéric Siordet, Member of the Committee.

A new film, called "Tous frères", tracing the work of the ICRC from 1947 to 1951, was produced in French, German and English versions. This short documentary as well as two other ICRC films ("Homeless in Palestine" and "Inter Arma Caritas") were shown in cinemas in different towns in Switzerland, Germany, England and France ¹.

BROADCASTING

On May 8, the anniversary of the birth of Henry Dunant ², the third International Red Cross broadcast entitled "A Century Later" ³, arranged by Radio Geneva under the auspices of the ICRC, the League and the European Broadcasting Union (UER) with the cooperation of twelve National Red Cross Societies, was transmitted by *Sottens National Swiss sender*, and relayed by the following services: *Radiodiffusion française*, *Radio Morocco*, *Radio italiana*, *Institut national belge de Radiodiffusion*, *Bayerische Rundfunk*, all transmitters of the *German Federal Republic*, as well as by *R.I.A.S. Berlin*, *Radio Athens*, *Radio Monte-Carlo*, *Rot-Weiss-Rot* and *Ravag Vienna*, *Radio Luxemburg*, *Radio Zagreb*, *Radio Bern*, *Radio Lugano*, the *Swiss Short-Wave Service*, the *Canadian Broadcasting Corporation* and, by slow-releasing relays, from transmitters in *Australia*, and from *France-Asie-Saïgon*. For the first time, a Red Cross broadcast was transmitted by hook-up to five continents.

During the year, regular features in Spanish were given by M. J. J. G. de Rueda, delegate of the Mexican Red Cross in Geneva and Councillor of the ICRC for Latin America, and

¹ All these films were shown on French television.

² A postal envelope decorated with a vignette showing a portrait of Henry Dunant was printed for the opening of the Exhibition of Red Cross Stamps in New York on 21 November 1952.

³ Produced by Robert Ferrazzino and Georges Kuhne.

broadcast on Swiss short-waves, particularly to the following Spanish-speaking countries : *Spain, Ecuador, Dominican Republic and Venezuela; Bolivia, Chile, Columbia, Uruguay, Cuba, Mexico and Peru.*

Broadcasts were given in English for *South Africa, Australia, Canada, Hong Kong, Ireland, Malta, and New Zealand*, as well as *India, Japan and Pakistan*. Others were in German and Italian.

Furthermore, appeals, restatements and messages on the Swiss national sender at Sottens chiefly concerning the XVIIIth International Red Cross Conference were broadcast by transmitters of the *Canadian Broadcasting Corporation* and the *National Broadcasting Corporation* in the United States.

The following are some titles of radio broadcasts on behalf of the ICRC :

“ New Year’s message ”, speeches made at the opening and closing sessions of the XVIIIth International Red Cross Conference by President Paul Ruegger.

Surveys and commentaries : “ Before the XVIIIth International Red Cross Conference ”, made in cooperation with Dr. Ernest Gloor, Vice-President, M. Frédéric Siordet and Mlle Lucie Odier, Members of the Committee, and MM. J. Pictet, J. Duchosal, R. Bovey and C. Pilloud, and a “ Survey of the XVIIIth International Red Cross Conference ” by M. M. Wolf, Councillor.

Eye-witness accounts and examples of fellowship : “ Combatants in plain clothes ” by MM. R. Haas, G. Hoffmann, N. Burckhardt, R. Bovey and J. Courvoisier, ICRC Delegates, and “ The Blind ”, “ The Radio ”, and “ The Scattered ”, by M. M. de Carlini.

Appeals for the collection : “ The ICRC in Korea, in Indochina, in Berlin and in Greece ”, “ Activities of the ICRC ”, and “ The ICRC, direct heir of Henry Dunant ”.

Documentary broadcasts : “ The Red Cross in the World ”, “ Twelve months in Peace as in War ” ¹.

¹ Produced jointly by the ICRC and the League. Script by M. M. de Carlini.

There were 37 countries, in 1952, which agreed to give at least one broadcast on the subject of the ICRC.

There were 95 broadcasts in French in 1952 ; and 192 copies and translations were made in German, English, Spanish, Italian and Serbo-Croat, reaching a total of 158 million listeners ¹.

PUBLICATIONS

As in previous years, the International Committee of the Red Cross gives below a list of its publications in 1952.

The New Geneva Conventions: The Sign of the Red Cross and the Repression of Abuses of the Red Cross Emblem by J. Pictet, Director for General Affairs of the International Committee of the Red Cross, Geneva 1952, 8vo, 63 pp. ²

Hospital Localities and Safety Zones, Geneva 1952, 8vo, 66 pp. ²

Appel du Comité international de la Croix-Rouge du 5 avril 1950 concernant les armes atomiques et les armes aveugles. Réponses des Gouvernements, Geneva 1952, 8vo, 39 pp.

Les Conventions de Genève du 12 août 1949. Commentaire publié sous la direction de J. Pictet, Directeur des affaires générales du CICR. I. *Convention de Genève pour l'amélioration du sort des blessés et des malades dans les forces armées en campagne*, Geneva 1952, 8vo, 542 pp.

Les Sanctions pénales dans la première Convention de Genève (blessés et malades) du 12 août 1949, by C. Pilloud, Deputy-Director for General Affairs, Geneva 1952, 8vo, 26 pp.

Les Conventions de Genève et la guerre aérienne by J. Wilhelm, Geneva 1952, 8vo, 33 pp.

Etudes sur la formation du droit humanitaire, by H. Coursier, Geneva 1952, 8vo, 106 pp.

Le Comité international de la Croix-Rouge et le conflit de Corée, Recueil de Documents. Vol. I, 26 June 1950-31 December 1951. Vol. II, 1 January-30 June 1952. Geneva 1952, 4to, 255 and 159 pp.

Statutes of the International Committee of the Red Cross, adopted 25 September 1952, Geneva 1952, 8vo, 4 pp. ³

¹ Figures taken from the European Broadcasting Union.

² French and Spanish editions were published beforehand.

³ In French, English and Spanish : roneoed German edition.

Publications presented to the XVIIIth International Red Cross Conference of Toronto ¹ :

Summary Report on the Work of the ICRC (1 July 1947-31 December 1951, Geneva 1952, 8vo, 119 pp. ²

Report on the Work of the ICRC, January 1 to December 31, 1951, Geneva 1952, 8vo, 73 pp. ²

Report on the Augusta Fund, Geneva 1952, 8vo, 7 pp.

Report on the distribution of the Florence Nightingale Medal, Geneva 1952, 8vo, 8 pp.

Report on the Foundation for the ICRC, Geneva 1952, 8vo, 1 p.

Report on the Protection of Civilian Hospitals and their Staff in Time of War, Geneva 1952, 8vo, 8 pp.

Report on the Relief distributed or transmitted by the ICRC from 1 January 1947 to 31 December 1951, Geneva 1952, 8vo, 10 pp.

Report on the Foundation for Red Cross Transports, Geneva 1952, 8vo, 4 pp.

Report on the Training, Duties, Status and Terms of Enrolment of the Medical Personnel Assigned to the Care of the Wounded and Sick in the Armed Forces, Geneva 1952, 8vo, 24 pp.

Toronto Resolutions, Geneva 1952, 8vo, 24 pp.

Statutes of the International Red Cross and Rules of Procedure of the International Conference of the Red Cross (Adopted by the XVIIIth International Red Cross Conference, Toronto, July-August 1952), Geneva 1952, 8vo, 24 pp.

Joint publications of the International Committee of the Red Cross and the League of Red Cross Societies :

Handbook of the International Red Cross, Ninth Edition, Geneva 1952, 8vo, 591 pp. ¹

Report of the Joint Commission of the ICRC and the League on the Empress Shôken Fund, Geneva 1952, 8vo, 8 pp.

REVUE INTERNATIONALE DE LA CROIX-ROUGE

The *Revue internationale de la Croix-Rouge*, official organ of the ICRC, incorporates the *International Bulletin* of the Red Cross Societies ³.

¹ In French, English and Spanish.

² Roneoed German edition.

³ Founded in 1869 by decision of the IIInd International Red Cross Conference.

The issues for December give a table of articles which appeared during the year in the *Revue* (thirty-fourth year) and the Bulletin (eighty-third year).

The main articles dealing with traditional activities and principles of the ICRC, and with humanitarian law, were translated and published in English, German and Spanish Supplements to the *Revue*. The table of contents for these Supplements also appears in the December number.

The *Revue* has endeavoured to show how the fundamental principles of the Red Cross are an integral part of a vast movement of thought and action. It began in 1951 the publication of studies by various scholars, professors and thinkers. This effort, which was continued in 1952, was intended to bring out in the philosophies of the Moslem countries, India and the Far East, the importance of the idea of disinterested aid to the suffering, whether friend or foe. Several leading personalities from the intellectual world of the East and the West responded to the *Revue's* appeal. In the future the latter would particularly like to secure relations, in this connection also, with National Societies which would like to help in the study of these general and most important problems, by contributing articles on points of doctrine or history.

The highly important lecture of M. Max Huber, Honorary President of the ICRC on "International Law and Humanity"¹ was translated and published in the *Revue internationale de la Croix-Rouge*, August 1952.

The *Revue internationale de la Croix-Rouge* has also published juridical analyses relative to the new Geneva Conventions, and articles entitled "La Croix-Rouge et la Paix". A number of these fundamental articles have lately been reprinted in the publications of the National Societies.

¹ Lecture at the St Gallen Higher Commercial School, with National Councillor Emil Anderegg, President of the City of St Gallen, in the Chair.