

Relations with International Institutions

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III. — RELATIONS WITH INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

1. UNITED NATIONS

During the year the ICRC maintained its relations with the United Nations.

A brief survey is given below of the principal aspects of the relations.

(a) Repatriation of Greek Children.

In the previous reports the ICRC gave an account of the efforts put forth during four years to obtain that Greek children who had been given shelter in Albania, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Yugoslavia, Poland and Rumania should be returned to their homes.

In October 1952, in the letter accompanying their fourth report to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the ICRC and the League stated that, having exhausted all means available to them in seeking a solution of the problem, they consequently felt obliged to suspend their work in this connection (with the possible exception of the repatriation of children from Yugoslavia). They also stated that they remained ready to resume their work as soon as the United Nations or the Governments concerned had been able to establish conditions, on the governmental level, which would make practical action by the Red Cross possible.

During its 7th Session the United Nations General Assembly thanked the two International Red Cross institutions and accepted the suspension of their work until such a time as conditions allowed for it to be resumed with useful effect. With regard to Yugoslavia however, it requested the ICRC and the League to pursue their efforts until all Greek children had been repatriated¹.

¹ See *Annual Report of the Secretary-General on the Work of the Organization, July 1, 1952-June 30, 1953. General Assembly, Official Records: Eighth Session: Supplement No. 1 (A/2404).*

The ICRC and the League informed the United Nations on May 29, 1953, that a group of 40 children had been returned to Greece from Yugoslavia during the previous month, which brought the total number of children repatriated from Yugoslavia to 578.

(b) Repatriation of Greek Military Personnel (Resolution 383 A (V) of the General Assembly of December 1, 1950).

The ICRC had been requested by the Secretary-General of the United Nations to keep in contact with National Red Cross Societies concerned with this question.

The General Assembly had decided to place the question on the Agenda of the 7th Session and the First Committee had been informed of the correspondence exchanged between the ICRC, the Permanent Delegate for Greece and the Secretary-General of the United Nations. During the discussions the Committee approved a draft resolution, adopted by the General Assembly on March 17, 1953, in which reference was made, in particular, to the International Committee's constant efforts in that connection.

(c) Specialized Agencies.

The ICRC continued its relations with the specialized agencies of the United Nations, in particular the World Health Organization, the International Labour Organization, the International Telecommunication Union, the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund and the High Commissioner for Refugees, for all questions of common interest to those agencies and the ICRC.

2. OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

As in the past, the ICRC remained in contact with the Council of Europe, the Intergovernmental Committee for European Migrations, the non-Governmental organisations concerned with the migration question and a number of mutual aid associations such as the Swiss Relief Fund, the American Friends Service Committee (Quakers), the International Catholic

Commission on Migrations (ICCM) and the relief agencies mentioned on page 27.

In particular; the ICRC submitted a memorandum on the subject of the ratification of the Geneva Conventions to the associations meeting in Geneva, in July 1953, under the auspices of the International Union for Child Welfare. The associations were the Young Men's Christian Association, Young Women's Christian Association, Associated Country Women of the World, International Catholic Childhood Office, World Jewish Congress, International Council of Women, World Council of Churches International Co-operative Women's Guild, International Union of Catholic Women's Leagues and the League of Red Cross Societies.

IV. — PUBLICATIONS AND INFORMATION

1. PUBLIC INTEREST IN THE WORK OF THE ICRC

As indicated in former reports, the ICRC replied to a steady flow of enquiries concerning its general work and on special aspects of its activities, emanating from the most varied official or private sources. The requests for information greatly increased during the past year ¹. When replying, extensive documentation was circulated concerning the history of the Red Cross, the origin, statutes and work of the ICRC, the drawing up and implementing of the Geneva Conventions, relations with National Red Cross Societies and various organisations concerned with humanitarian problems, emphasis being laid, in each case, on the principles which inspire the work of the ICRC.

2. REVUE INTERNATIONALE DE LA CROIX-ROUGE

The *Revue* is the official organ of the ICRC and incorporates the International Bulletin of the Red Cross Societies (founded in 1869 by decision of the IInd International Red Cross Conference).

¹ The number of visitors for 1953 was greater than in previous years. Some days as many as ten visits of the Central Prisoners of War Agency had to be organised.