

# Relations of the ICRC with Red Cross Institutions

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## IV. RELATIONS OF THE ICRC WITH RED CROSS INSTITUTIONS

### XIXth INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS CONFERENCE

During the year the ICRC prepared various reports for the consideration of the delegates of Governments signatory to the Geneva Conventions, and the National Societies which would be meeting at New Delhi.

We refer, first of all, to the *Draft Rules for the Limitation of the Dangers incurred by the Civilian Population in Time of War*. The following documents were also prepared :

Commentary on the Agenda;

Report on Action taken on the Resolutions of the XVIIIth International Conference of the Red Cross;

National Red Cross Societies and Civil Defence;

The Geneva Conventions ratification, dissemination, rules of application, etc.;

Nursing duties, organisation, enrolment and training of professional and auxiliary personnel for their duties in time of war;

ICRC, Summary Report, 1952-1956;

ICRC, Annual Report, 1956;

Report of the ICRC relative to Relief distributed or transmitted by the ICRC from January 1, 1952, to December 31, 1955;

Legal Aid to Aliens;  
International Commission for Medical Equipment;  
The Red Cross, a factor of Peace throughout the World;  
Commission for the Financing of the International Committee of  
the Red Cross;  
Foundation for the International Committee of the Red Cross;  
Augusta Fund;  
Shôken Fund;  
Florence Nightingale Fund.

These documents were sent from Geneva to the National Societies and Governments, members of the Conference, in the three working languages—French, English and Spanish.

The ICRC lent its services to the Indian Red Cross for the preparation of the XIXth International Conference. In November, an Assistant-Director <sup>1</sup>, accompanied by a representative of the League, went to New Delhi for the preliminary work. During this mission (November 19-December 20), the delegates of the two Red Cross institutions were in close co-operation with the directors of the Indian Red Cross. Owing to circumstances, however, the Conference was unable to meet on the date arranged in January and was postponed until the autumn of 1957.

**National Red Cross Societies.** — On May 9, 1956, the representatives of over thirty National Societies met in Geneva for the sessions of the League Executive Committee, and, as customary, a meeting for information purposes was held at the ICRC headquarters which, in particular, afforded the opportunity of defining the position of the Red Cross movement in regard to the danger incurred by the civilian population in indiscriminate warfare.

By means of delegates and missions sent from Geneva, the ICRC has endeavoured to develop still further its relation with

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<sup>1</sup> Mr. C. Pilloud.

the National Societies in the old and new worlds : firstly, in *North America* at the American Red Cross Convention for the 75th anniversary of its foundation <sup>1</sup>, secondly in the *Far East* (China, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaya, the Philippines, South Korea, Thailand and Viet Nam) <sup>2</sup>, and thirdly in the *Near East* (Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, the Lebanon and Syria) <sup>3</sup>. In all those countries the ICRC ascertained that the question of the protection of the civilian population was one of the main concerns of the Red Cross and Red Crescent movement.

It is not only from the legal standpoint that National Societies wish to show their real interest in this problem. Several Red Cross Societies are already co-operating with the special services in this connection. Others are also desirous of undertaking such duties and wish to know all the aspects of the matter in order to judge the merits of the various theories. At the next meeting of the International Red Cross Conference, the National Societies will be able to make their experience known, and to have interesting discussions on the subject.

The presence of governmental representatives at the International Conference will be most useful, particularly as regards Red Cross co-operation with the public authorities in this field.

OFFICIAL RECOGNITION OF A NATIONAL SOCIETY. — In 1956 the ICRC approved the request for recognition submitted by the Red Cross Society of the People's Democratic Republic of Korea.

The ICRC had the pleasure of receiving this new Society into the International Red Cross, of accrediting it to all other National Societies and of recommending it to their kind attention, while expressing its best wishes for the Society's future and for the success of its charitable work.

ASSISTANCE IN THE FORMATION OF NEW NATIONAL SOCIETIES. — The Tunisian authorities having expressed their wish to join the universal Red Cross, Red Crescent and Red Lion and Sun

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<sup>1</sup> Mr. R. Olgiati, Member of the ICRC, and Mr. M. Borsinger.

<sup>2</sup> Mr. W. Michel and Mr. E. de Weck.

<sup>3</sup> Miss A. Pfirter and Mr. D. de Traz.

movement, the ICRC sent a mission to Tunis from April 19 to 27, 1956. The representatives of the ICRC<sup>1</sup> had conversations with the Head of the Government, the Minister of Health and members of the committee for the formation of the new National Society. An extensive collection of documents was supplied relating to the Geneva Conventions, the history of the Red Cross and its work in peace-time and in war-time, the conditions for the creation of National Societies, their recognition by the ICRC and their admission to the League.

The mission also met the representative of the French Government and the General-Delegate of the French Red Cross, and paid interesting visits to several centres set up for the Tunisian people's use.

The question of the creation of a National Society in Morocco and that of Morocco's accession to the Geneva Conventions were also raised. The ICRC mission which went on to Morocco from Tunisia, gave all necessary documents to the Moroccan Government. During their stay in Morocco the ICRC representatives also visited the institutions founded by the French Red Cross Delegation on behalf of the Moroccan people.

**League of Red Cross Societies.** — The previous Annual Reports have shown the International Committee's close co-operation with the General Secretariat of the League of Red Cross Societies. Special mention should be made of the happy results obtained during the monthly meetings provided by the regulations, in particular for the development of the large-scale relief actions undertaken by the International Red Cross. During the sessions of the Executive Committee of the League, meetings organised at the ICRC headquarters led to still greater unity of thought between all the Red Cross institutions in spite of the complications caused by the present serious problems.

**Standing Commission and Meetings of the Three Presidents.** — The President and Vice-President of the ICRC attended the meetings of the Standing Commission of the Red Cross, held on

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<sup>1</sup> Mr. F. Siordet, Vice-President of the ICRC, and Mr. P. Gaillard.

two occasions (May 9 and October 30) at the ICRC headquarters in Geneva, when the preparation of the International Red Cross Conference was discussed. An extraordinary meeting of the Standing Commission was held on December 13, also in Geneva, to decide the opening date of the XIXth Conference. By a majority of votes the Commission decided to postpone the Conference to a later date, since the National Societies were engaged in relief actions on behalf of the victims of the events in Central Europe and the Near East. The Indian Red Cross showed great understanding of the situation and accepted the decision of the Commission. In addition, the Chairman of the Standing Commission, H. E. A. François-Poncet, the President of the ICRC and the Chairman of the League met on February 20 in Paris, and on May 19 in Geneva.

**Distribution of income from the Augusta and Shôken Funds. —**

As stated in previous Reports, the ICRC administers various funds constituted for humanitarian purposes. The Augusta and Shôken Funds are intended to provide grants for the National Red Cross Societies towards their relief work in peace-time, in particular for the prevention of contagious diseases and the assistance of victims of natural disasters.

The Special Commission of the ICRC entrusted with the administration of the Augusta Fund decided to share out the sum of Sw. Fr. 34,000.— in 1956, as follows :

Austrian Red Cross Society, for the development of its Nursing Schools and to institute advanced training courses . . . . .	Fr. 4,000.—
Ceylon Red Cross Society, for its centre for children suffering from malnutrition . . . . .	Fr. 4,000.—
Chilean Red Cross Society, for organising and opening a Central Nursing School . . . . .	Fr. 3,000.—
Ethiopian Red Cross Society, for the construction of an additional building for the Nursing School, in which to hold three-year courses . . . . .	Fr. 4,000.—
German Red Cross in the German Federal Republic, for enlarging the library at the Werner School of the Society's Association of Mother Homes . . . . .	Fr. 2,000.—

Indonesian Red Cross Society, for the development of nurses' training centres and the purchase of demonstration equipment . . . . .	Fr. 4,000.—
Jordan Red Crescent Society, for the purchase of medical equipment and other supplies in connection with its action on behalf of refugees . . . . .	Fr. 3,000.—
Jugoslav Red Cross Society, to provide scholarships for the training of tutor-sisters in nursing schools . .	Fr. 3,000.—
Norwegian Red Cross Society, for the study of improvements in the professional training of nurses . . .	Fr. 2,000.—
South African Red Cross Society, for the maintenance of a Blood Transfusion Centre in the South-West Africa region . . . . .	Fr. 2,000.—
Spanish Red Cross Society, for the enlargement of the Red Cross Nursing School in Barcelona . . . . .	Fr. 3,000.—

The *Joint Commission*, formed of three representatives of the ICRC and three representatives of the League, entrusted with the distribution of the income from the Empress Shôken Fund, approved requests for grants submitted by five National Societies, and allocated the total amount of Sw. Fr. 14,500.—, as follows :

Austrian Red Cross Society, for the purchase of bedding and medical supplies for the sanatorium for tuberculos cases at Grimmenstein . . . . .	Fr. 4,000.—
Ceylon Red Cross Society, for the continuation and further development of its work on behalf of children suffering from malnutrition and tuberculosis	Fr. 2,000.—
Indian Red Cross Society, for the development and improvement of its blood transfusion service in the State of Bombay . . . . .	Fr. 3,500.—
Red Lion and Sun Society of Iran, for the purchase of works for the library of its nursing school . . .	Fr. 2,500.—
Spanish Red Cross Society, for the development of its first-aid services for accidents and disasters . . .	Fr. 2,500.—

As is known, the award of the Florence Nightingale Medal is made only every two years. The awards for the fifteenth distribution appeared in the previous Annual Report; the accounts for this Fund are shown at the end of this volume.

In addition, the ICRC will submit to the XIXth International Conference (as is customary for each Conference) a report on the present situation of the Funds.

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