

Relations with International Institutions

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Of the messages of good wishes and congratulations received by the ICRC, several came from Sovereigns and other Heads of State, the highest Red Cross patrons in various countries. For instance, the Queen of the Netherlands, the Queen of Thailand and Princess Grace of Monaco, expressed their personal attachment to the work of the Red Cross.

In London, from May 8-10, Mr. M. Bodmer, Vice-President of the ICRC, and Mr. R. Gallopin, Executive Director, attended the impressive events organized by the British Red Cross, in the presence of H.M. Queen Elizabeth and H.R.H. the Duke of Edinburgh.

In France the main Centenary celebration took place under the chairmanship of the Head of the State and the ICRC President was personally invited.

Several conferences were given by delegates of the ICRC at the request of local Red Cross Committees, thus associating the International Committee with the events, even local, organized by militant Red Cross workers. We might mention by way of example Mr. Pictet's lecture in Liège on September 15, Miss Pfirter's in Kassel on October 9, and Mr. Coursier's at Pontarlier on October 14.

In Stuttgart, on October 30, Mr. Carl-J. Burckhardt, member and former President of the ICRC, took part in the events organized to commemorate the birth of the first National Society for Aid to Military Wounded, i.e. the Württemberg Red Cross.

The award of the Florence Nightingale Medal brought forth from the recipients and the National Societies honoured through them, expressions of fidelity to the ICRC and the Red Cross movement. For the National Society of Liberia this was a special occasion ; the first award of the medal to an African national.

RELATIONS WITH INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

The ICRC's relations with the U.N. and its specialized Agencies

The ICRC has maintained close contact with the United Nations Organization and its Specialized Agencies, particularly with the Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees and the World Health Organization.

With regard to the conflict in the Yemen ¹ and the U.N. mission sent out there at the beginning of July, the ICRC co-operated with the U.N. Secretariat. The United Nations representatives in the Yemen declared their readiness to support the ICRC's humanitarian mission to the full extent of the means available to them. The various facilities granted the ICRC delegates by UNO, particularly transport and radio transmission, have proved invaluable on many occasions.

In March the ICRC delegated observers to the Sixteenth World Health Assembly held at the U.N. European headquarters in Geneva. It was also similarly represented at the ECOSOC meeting in July, at the Executive Committee for the programme of the High Commissioner's Office in August and October, and at the WHO Executive Committee in May.

The Centenary celebrations were made the occasion by several U.N. institutions to publish leaflets or articles on the Red Cross movement and its work.

The High Commissioner for Refugees had a thirty-five page monogram published entitled "The Red Cross and Refugees". This reviewed the action carried out in favour of refugees since the First World War under the impetus of the ICRC. This interesting and detailed publication makes particular mention of the ICRC's initiative in 1921 in bringing to the notice of the League of Nations the necessity of establishing the Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees. As Mr. Gustave Ador, President of the ICRC, wrote at that time : " All organizations now occupied with this work would be pleased to renew their efforts under the general directorate of a League of Nations Commissioner, as the only supra-national authority capable of solving a problem beyond the powers of organizations which are solely humanitarian ".

The April issue of " World Health ", the WHO magazine, was a " Red Cross Centenary Album ", a very fine forty-six page edition, abundantly illustrated, reviewing in graphic style the milestones in the history of Red Cross relief work.

In its June issue entitled History of Humanity, the Unesco Courier contained a six-page illustrated article on " The Red Cross : The Centenary of a Universal Banner ".

¹ See pp. 15-25.

ICRC's relations with other Non-Governmental Humanitarian Organizations.

The ICRC maintained contact not only with international governmental institutions, but also with other voluntary organizations having humanitarian objectives.

We have already pointed out, as regards legal assistance, how the ICRC continued its support of the International Council of Voluntary Agencies (ICVA), whose General Secretariat is housed in the ICRC headquarters.¹ Mr. Coursier and Mr. de Reynold represented the International Committee at the First General Conference of the ICVA in the United Nations Building, from September 23-27. Mr. Boissier, President of the ICRC, was present at the opening session, when a unanimous tribute was paid to him by the Voluntary Agencies, on the occasion of the Centenary. At the presentation of the Nansen medal to the ICVA, the ICRC, which has a seat on that Council, was represented by Miss van Berchem, a member of the International Committee.

The Order of Malta continued its traditional links with the ICRC, by the Bailiff Chancellor's visit to the Committee's headquarters in March on the occasion of the Centenary.

The International Law Society wrote to the ICRC in May, to associate itself with the Red Cross Centenary celebrations.

In September, Colonel Meuli, a member of the ICRC, attended the twenty-fifth Meeting of the International Office of Military Medicine Documentation. The Executive Committee of the International Federation of Colleges of Surgeons (London) adopted a resolution paying tribute to the Red Cross for the Centenary.

Correspondence was exchanged with Amnesty International on humanitarian assistance to political detainees, and the World Veteran's Federation devoted the June issue of its monthly magazine "World Veteran" to the Red Cross, under the title "A Hundred Years of Service to Humanity". This well-illustrated number also contained an article by Mr. Pictet on "The Geneva Conventions" and another by Mr. Coursier on "The Red Cross and Peace".

¹ See p. 53.