

Relations with International Organizations

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Societies which had lodged applications. The sums granted were higher than any previously awarded, viz : Sw. fr. 10,000 to the Red Cross of the Congo for the purchase of a jeep-ambulance ; and Sw. fr. 12,000 to the Syrian Red Crescent for a vehicle designed for collection of blood donations.

Florence Nightingale Medal.—The special commission set up by the ICRC for deciding every second year the award of Florence Nightingale Medals to nurses and voluntary aids who have distinguished themselves by exceptional devotion to the wounded and sick, approved twenty-seven of the candidates put forward for this high distinction by fifteen National Societies. The successful candidates were :

Home Sister-in-Charge Miss Lucy Wise MacIntosh, Matron Mary Dorothy Edis (Australia) ; Mrs. Ines Yuraszek Cantin de Schmidt (Chile) ; Mrs. Anna Knapcokova (Czechoslovakia) ; Mrs. Lilia de Vendeuvre (France) ; Sister-in-Charge Gertrud Baltzer, Sister Irène von Scheel (German Federal Republic) ; Mrs. Mary Folke (Great Britain) ; Miss Irène Komarik (Hungary) ; Lt. Col. F. St-Claire Watkins (India) ; Miss Kikuyo Uchiyama, Miss Kyio Ushioda and Miss Kise Makita (Japan) ; Mrs. Chung-Sun Kim and Mrs. Bo-Shin Lo (Republic of Korea) ; Miss Muriel Jessie Jackson (New Zealand) ; Major Honorata P. Seraspi, Miss Balisia Hernando, Mrs. Maria M. Concepcion (Philippines) ; Mrs. Wadyslawa Steffen and Mrs. Luba Blem-Bielicka (Poland) ; Miss Victoria M. Freeman (South African Republic) ; Miss Marie Dmitrievna Serdiouk, Mrs. Faïna Khoussaïnovna Tchanycheva, Mrs. Z. Mikhailovna Touss-nolobova Martchenko, Mrs. M. Savelievn Chkarletova and Miss Agnia Ivanovna Khablova (USSR).

RELATIONS WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

The ICRC has kept constantly in touch with the United Nations Organization and its specialized agencies, its contacts with which, based on mutual confidence, were strengthened by the visits exchanged by the ICRC President and the U.N. Secretary-General.

In June, Mr. S. Gonard visited U. Thant at the United Nations New York headquarters and the following month U. Thant, accompanied by Mr. Spinelli, Under-Secretary, Mr. Hill, Assistant Under-Secretary and Mr. Palthey, Assistant Director of the United Nations European Office, returned the visit to the ICRC President.

The ICRC sent observers to a number of meetings of the United Nations and its Specialized Agencies, in particular to the Seventh Session of the Advisory Committee of non-governmental organizations participating in the world-wide " War on Want " campaign sponsored by the FAO (Geneva, February) ; the 18th World Health Assembly (Geneva, May) ; the 13th and 14th Sessions of the Executive Committee of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (Geneva, May and October) ; and the 39th session of the Economic and Social Council (Geneva, July).

The ICRC also maintained close contact with several inter-governmental institutions which are not connected with the United Nations, such as the Arab League, the Council of Europe and particularly with the International Committee of Military Medicine and Pharmacy and the Inter-governmental Committee on European Migration.

Many other non-government organizations with which the ICRC was in contact were : the Council of Voluntary Agencies, Amnesty International, the World Veterans' Federation (whose members attending their general meeting in Lausanne came to the ICRC on May 3, 1965 to pay it tribute), the Free International Association of Former Deported and Interned Resistance Movement Members, the International Law Association, the International Council of Nurses, the International Commission of Jurists, the World Medical Association, the World Peace Council, the International Social Service, the International Association of Lions Clubs.

From June 16 to 23, the Head of the Medical Personnel Section (Miss A. Pfirter), represented the ICRC at the XIIIth Congress of the International Council of Nurses in Frankfurt. One of the resolutions voted, No. 8, supplementing the preamble to the Code of Ethics of the International Council of Nurses stresses the importance for all nurses of knowing the principles of the Red Cross as well as the rights and duties conferred on them by the Geneva

Conventions.¹ Following this Congress, the ICRC was requested to supply considerable documentary material to a great many of the participants.

We would also mention that the Netherlands Committee for the International and National Craftsmanship Competition offered the ICRC a sun-dial which it erected in the grounds of the institution's headquarters ; this sun-dial was inaugurated on August 6.

INFORMATION AND PUBLICATIONS

In its own particular fields, the press, radio, television, cinema, various publications and documents, etc., the Press and Information Service in spite of its limited material resources, endeavoured to extend its activity and to make it more effective in order the better to make known in the world the ICRC's principles, responsibilities and mission. With this in view it sought to improve its methods and simplify its organization.

Relations with the press

The ICRC maintained close connection with the Swiss and foreign press. The Press and Information Service attaches great importance to the co-operation it receives from press agencies, newspaper editors, broadcasting stations and other organizations prepared to disseminate throughout the world news of and comments on ICRC activity.

In 1965, the Press and Information Service published nineteen issues of its bulletin " Topical Red Cross News " ; this was circulated to many newspapers, press agencies, radio stations, Red Cross Societies, governments and diplomatic missions throughout the world. In addition, it issued forty-four press releases on various subjects. This material was frequently reproduced in the press or quoted in news broadcasts. It also replied to many questions, both verbal and written, set by journalists and it frequently supplied documentary material for articles on the Red Cross, its history and its work. This activity was particularly intensive in relation to the

¹ See page 49.